



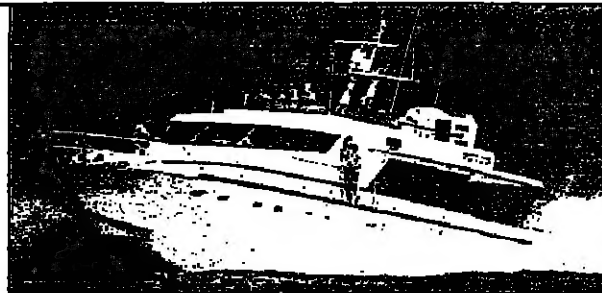
REVIEW

What became of New Zealand's paradise



TRAVEL

What to do if you're charged by a lion



BOATING

What your yacht says about you

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446,000
No 63,596

THE TIMES

SATURDAY JANUARY 6 1990

30p

Border chief is thrown out by Gorbachov

Bid to take control as Baltic threats grow

By Daniel Triesman

With separatist sentiment rising in the Baltic republics and unrest sweeping through Azerbaijan, President Gorbachov struck back last night, replacing the Communist Party chief in the Iranian border enclave of Nakhichevan.

The move showed the Soviet leader's determination to regain control in the southern region, as he prepares to confront the Baltic challenge.

With the once proud Communist parties of Eastern Europe already fading into history, he faces the most serious threat yet to the territorial integrity of the Soviet Union.

He will travel to Lithuania on Wednesday in an attempt to persuade the republic's

Communist Party to retract its recent declaration of independence. It will be the first trip to Vilnius by any Communist Party leader since Lenin.

Hopes of a compromise were raised after a meeting this week in Moscow with Mr Algirdas Brazauskas, the Lithuanian party chief.

According to Lithuanian sources, Mr Gorbachov then gave assurances that force would not be used to end the crisis.

Yet despite Mr Gorbachov's apparent goodwill, Lithuanians are afraid

Solzhenitsyn's glossary 8

that hardliners at the full central committee meeting of the Soviet Communist Party later this month will force a confrontation.

The stakes rose still higher as the Estonian Communist Party threw its support behind the Lithuanians, after a meeting of its Central Committee set March 23 as the date for its own congress. It is expected to vote then on a similar proposal to split from the Soviet party.

Mr Geider Isayev, who formally retired from the Nakhichevan post for health reasons, was replaced on Wednesday by Mr Asyevdin Dzhalilov, the Azerbaijan foreign ministry said.

But a spokesman, Mr Ismail Agayev, indicated the retirement was a result of the week of turmoil in the region, where crowds on Thursday tore up fences along the border with Iran. "You know what is happening in Nakhichevan," Mr Agayev said when asked the reason for Mr Isayev's stepping down.

Meanwhile, 10,000 protesters took to the streets of the Azerbaijan capital Baku in sympathy with their compatriots in the troubled region.

Mr Nazim Ragimov, a journalist, said in a telephone talk from Baku that about 30,000 people gathered on

Thursday for a mass meeting in Nakhichevan and burned copies of *Pravda* and *Izvestia* to protest the way they covered events. "After the meeting they went in the direction of the border and ripped up what had not been destroyed on December 31."

Mr Ragimov said the body of a former leading activist of the Azerbaijani Popular Front, a local radical group, had also been found.

Local activists and Azerbaijani officials have expressed disbelief at accounts in the central Soviet press which they say exaggerate the border trouble and imply it was inspired by a resurgence in Islamic feelings.

Azerbaijani activists dismiss the reports as an attempt to discredit the Popular Front, which has played an increasingly important role in public life. The region was on Thursday closed to foreign journalists.

Mr Agayev, spokesman for the republic's foreign ministry, ascribed the troubles largely to local people's desire to use farm land within the border area and for closer ties with relatives across the Iranian frontier.

A delegation of senior Communist Party officials was in Nakhichevan last night on a fact-finding mission.



Gorbachov: striking back as pressure grows at home

Bond may sell control of his master company

By Angela Mackay

Mr Alan Bond, the Australian businessman with debts of \$A6 billion (nearly £3 billion) who is facing receivership, has begun talks with a Singapore company about the sale of a controlling interest in Bond Corp Holdings, his master company, for a maximum purchase price of \$A250 million.

Negotiations depend on the resolution of the receivership action initiated by Mr Bond's bankers.

A Bond Corp spokesman

confirmed yesterday that there had been talks between Mr Bond and Mr Jeff Reynolds, the chairman of California Pacific International and its US subsidiary, Weatherby.

A cash injection of about \$A250 million would dilute Mr Bond's 52 per cent stake in Bond Corp and allow control to pass to CPI. Shares in Bond Corp were suspended last week at 13 cents (Australian) - capitalizing the company at almost \$A555 million.

Talks on control, page 17

FA accuses Macari of betting breach

By John Goodbody
Sports News Correspondent



Lou Macari: Has to respond to disciplinary commission.

The Football Association yesterday charged Swindon Town, Mr Lou Macari, its former manager, and Mr Brian Hillier, its chairman, with a breach of rules relating to unauthorized betting.

The charge relates to an alleged bet placed on a FA Cup tie in January, 1988, when Swindon was beaten 5-0 by Newcastle United.

The FA Disciplinary Committee will appoint a three-man commission from its 25 members to hear the charges. It will have the power to fine or suspend, possibly for life,

the individuals from the game.

However, the FA made it clear yesterday that there was no suggestion that Mr Hillier, Mr Macari or anyone at Swindon had been involved in fixing the result of the match.

Mr Hillier refused to comment.

Mr Macari, now manager of West Ham, was in Torquay yesterday preparing for a FA Cup tie today. He said only: "I knew about the problems when it was first announced a few months ago. But I am not aware of any of today's developments. I will talk about the game against Tor-

quay but not about anything else."

The FA statement read: "Swindon Town, its chairman Brian Hillier and former manager Lou Macari are charged that they were in breach of Rule 26.4 in relation to an alleged bet placed on the club's FA Cup tie against Newcastle in January, 1988. They are requested to respond within 14 days indicating whether they require a personal hearing."

Officials and players are forbidden to bet except on authorized pools.

The FA started its inquiry after evidence in *The People*. Full report, page 45

Noriega held in secret underground cell

Haggling by defence may hold up trial

From Charles Bremner, Miami



A US Justice Department's "mug shot" of General Manuel Noriega in detention in Miami.

General Manuel Noriega sat alone in a secret underground cell in Miami yesterday as US prosecutors sought to bring fresh charges to help bolster a drug case that threatens to turn into one of the messiest and most protracted in American history.

With General Noriega's lawyers mounting an intricate defence that could delay for a year the start of the so-called "trial of the century", the Bush administration was also reported to be considering a deal under which he could incriminate top figures in the Colombian drug trade in return for reduced charges.

His legal team, headed by Mr Frank Rubino, a leading "powder lawyer", as the cocaine attorneys are known, complained that the security blanket around the captured general was so tight that even they were not being told of his whereabouts.

However police sources in Miami said the former "maximum leader" was being held in a 10 by 12 foot cell known as "the submarine" beneath

the federal courthouse in the centre of Miami. Tunnels connect the cell with the court of Judge William Hoever, who is presiding over the case.

The room has a bed, a television and a lavatory. Its door is not visible to other occupants, who are usually felons participating in the Federal Witness Protection Programme, the scheme that provides secret new identities for those who help the prosecution.

The general, who is showing in captivity all his renowned resilience, was likely to be moved to another secret prison, possibly in another state, over the weekend pending further court appearances.

The government prosecutors were reported by legal sources in Miami yesterday to be ploughing through sheaves of files of memos and financial records seized by US forces when they stormed Noriega's headquarters last month. They are hoping to find material for new charges or fresh evidence to back up the

Continued on page 16, col 6

Ambulance chief may face court action

By Tim Jones, Employment
Affairs Correspondent

Mr Roger Poole, chief negotiator for unions in the ambulance dispute, could face legal action and big claims for compensation if industry is disrupted by workers responding to his call for a 15-minute stoppage later this month, two employers' organizations said yesterday.

The warnings, from the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors, came as the inner cabinet of the TUC said it "warmly supports this call to the whole nation to respect of period of national conscience

in support of the life saving ambulance service".

Both organizations warned of the possible serious consequences in spite of Mr Poole's request to workers only to take action with their employers consent and to do nothing that would endanger health or safety.

There were fears that in spite of that qualification, some workers would feel compelled to join the stoppage on January 30 whether their employers agreed or not.

With no end in sight to the bitter 17-week dispute, the call for widespread support from workers in industries not in-

involved in the dispute came as Mr Poole and his colleagues conceded that growing anger among crews could lead to the union losing control of members unless a settlement was achieved.

The institute said the move "takes us back to the pre-1979 industrial jungle at a time when British industry is fighting to maintain jobs and profits". It said: "Mr Poole's call to employees to take 15 minutes off work whether or not they are involved in the dispute is an inducement to them to break their contracts of employment. Any employer who is not involved in

the dispute who suffers loss as a result therefore appears to be entitled to compensation."

The view was reinforced by the CBI, which claimed the planned action "appears to be resorting to tactics which were last employed in the 1970s".

The CBI said "engendering widespread disruption, however short-lived, can only cause harm, particularly if continuous process industries are involved".

It said: "There may also be a danger that individuals not concerned with the dispute are being encouraged to act in an unlawful way."

Under present employment

law, workers who take secondary action without the consent of their employers face non-selective dismissal or the loss of pay.

However, the Department of Employment said that because of Mr Poole's qualification "we would be entering a very grey area of the law".

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, said he expected many forms of action by workers and a lot of co-operation from employers.

An elderly woman was knocked down and killed by an Army ambulance on its way to an emergency call at Walsall, West Midlands, yesterday.

In today's 56-page Times

SECTION 1

Home news	2-5
Overseas news	7-9
Births, marriages, deaths	13
Church services	13
Court & Social	13
Crossword	16
Diary	10
Leading articles	11
Letters	11
Obituaries	12
On this day	13
Religion	12
Saleroom	13
Science	13
Television & radio	14, 15
Weather	16

SECTION 2

Business news	17-20, 28
Family Money	23-27
Stock markets	21, 22

SECTION 3

Arts	39
Books	36, 37
Bridge and chess	44
Campus	33
Collecting	42
Concise crossword	44
Eating Out	34
Entertainments	38
Food and drink	35
Gardening	41
Nad Sherrin	30
Records	40
Shopping	42, 43
Week Ahead	44
Weekend events	33

SECTION 4

Sport	45-49
Racing	50, 51
Travel	53-55

Inquiry on water

By Our City Staff

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, has referred holdings in two small water companies to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The stakes are 29 per cent in Mid Kent, held by the British offshoot of Compagnie Générale des Eaux de France, and 25 per cent in Mid Sussex, held by Southern Water. Under the Water Act, the DTI must refer any "merger" where both parties control a water enterprise with assets exceeding £30 million.

Details, page 17

D 1

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Civil Service union objects to code on 'complete loyalty'

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

The Government is to insist that a new code of conduct for Whitehall includes a phrase saying that civil servants owe it complete loyalty, despite objections from the Association of First Division Civil Servants.

The union, which represents 8,000 senior officials in the Civil Service and tax inspectorate, opposes a clause in the code which says that for "all practical purposes" civil servants answer to the Government of the day.

The association wants the clause to say "for most practical purposes" — a small difference of wording which the union believes is necessary to accommodate a civil servant who considered that ministers were behaving unreasonably or even illegally.

The wording the Government is insisting on was coined two-and-a-half years ago by Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, then head of the Civil Service, in the wake of the Poincaré affair.

With the agreement of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, he wrote a public memorandum on civil servants' loyalties and obligations

after the acquittal of Mr Clive Ponting, the Ministry of Defence official, on official secrets charges after the leaking of classified material.

Since then new procedures for conscience-stricken civil servants to appeal to the head of the Civil Service have been put into effect.

Members of the association in several Whitehall departments said yesterday the issue

Leading article.....11

would certainly not lead to industrial action, but that civil servants remained unhappy with Lord Armstrong's formula. In his memorandum he said that civil servants served the Crown but for all practical purposes that meant ministers in charge of their departments.

Ms Liz Symonds, the association's general secretary, said civil servants had a duty of confidentiality but "we owe the absolute duty to the Crown and Parliament, not to ministers, who have been known to be less than perfect occasionally."

The drafting of a new code of conduct results from the

passage by Parliament last year of the Official Secrets Act, which involved the repeal of Section Two of the previous Act. Outside the area of national security and certain other categories, civil servants no longer face criminal prosecution if they leak information.

The Government wants civil servants' obligations to be restated in a disciplinary code, and has delayed implementing the new Act until the code is agreed.

It seems now that it will go ahead with the code even if the association objects. Discussions between it and the Cabinet Office, and the other civil service unions, have been going on for six months. The Cabinet Office said last night the new code would be published soon.

Although no formal talks have yet been scheduled, it seems likely that there will be a meeting between the association's leaders and Sir Robin Butler, head of the Civil Service.

Civil servants are likely to press for an inquiry into the wording of the code.

Tax burden up for low paid, says Meacher

By Nigel Williamson
Political Staff

The income tax and national insurance burden of those on less than average incomes has increased over the past decade, according to figures released yesterday by Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's social security spokesman.

At the same time, tax on the very rich has been dramatically reduced, so that tax and national insurance has been almost halved for someone on ten times average earnings.

"After the Thatcher decade it is now a commonplace that the gap between rich and poor is widening. But the breakneck pace at which it is widening has not been previously analysed or recognized," he said.

Using figures extracted from government departments in a series of written parliamentary questions, Mr Meacher says that for a married man with two children on 75 per cent average earnings, income tax and NI increased from 14.6 per cent in 1979 to 16.9 per cent ten years later. For those on half average earnings the burden rose from 2.5 per cent to 6.8 per cent.

However, those on ten times average earnings, have seen their bill reduced from 65.6 per cent to 37.1.

Seabird saved from oil slick

NIG RANDALL



Joanne Partridge and her father Mr Ken Partridge using a toothbrush yesterday to clean up a guillemot, one of the victims of Channel pollution. They run an oiled bird unit for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at their home in Plymstock, Plymouth.

Only four applicants for top police job

By Craig Seton

Only four applications have been received for the £55,600 a year post of Chief Constable of the West Midlands, one of the top jobs in British policing.

It may have to be re-advertised in an attempt to find a successor to Mr Geoffrey Dear, who leaves in March.

Members of the police authority expressed surprise and disappointment at the low number of applications which had arrived by yesterday's closing date.

Some feared that the investigation into alleged corruption within the force's disbanded serious crime squad may have deterred other potential applicants.

The authority had invited applications from only serving chief constables or officers of equivalent rank, such as commissioners in the Metropolitan Police.

It said that a only a senior officer with experience could fill the vacancy in the force, one of the three top forces, with nearly 7,000 officers.

A shortlisting panel will meet on Monday. A front runner is considered to be Mr David O'Dowd, aged 47, Chief Constable of Northamptonshire.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Broadcasting Bill 'a threat to Scots'

The Broadcasting Bill, which begins its committee stage at Westminster next week, threatens Scottish culture and identity, Mr Robert MacLennan, the Liberal Democrat MP for Caithness and Sutherland, said yesterday.

Mr MacLennan, the party's spokesman on broadcasting, said at a Glasgow conference that television executives based in London seemed to think Scottish broadcasting meant nothing more than "the annual Hogmanay show". English domination, perpetuated in the bill, would "diminish the quality, quantity and range of Scottish made programmes" he said.

The bill does not even allow for a Scottish member of the Independent Television Commission. The bill did not even mention Scotland, he said.

Mr MacLennan said that he would seek to amend the bill in the interests of Scotland and also called on the Government to locate the headquarters of the proposed new Channel Five franchise in Edinburgh.

New judge installed

Mr Michael Bruce, QC, was yesterday installed as a judge in the Scottish supreme court. He has taken the judicial title of Lord Marnoch, marking his roots in north-east Scotland. Lord Marnoch, aged 51, the son of an Aberdeen solicitor, attended Aberdeen University. He replaces Lord Brand, aged 66, who retired recently.

● Sheriff Gordon Nicholson, QC, the new Sheriff Principal for the Lothians was welcomed to his post yesterday at Edinburgh Sheriff Court by civic dignitaries. He succeeds Mr Frederick O'Brien, QC, who has retired.

Meningitis deaths

A twin boy three months old and a girl aged eight have died of meningitis in the West Midlands (Craig Seton writes). Kerion Meegan, died after being taken ill at his home with bacterial meningitis. In Birmingham, medical officers urged hospitals and general practitioners to watch for the disease after the death of a girl, aged eight, of meningococcal meningitis, the strain involved in an outbreak affecting dozens of people in Gloucestershire three years ago.

Disc industry anger

The British Phonographic Industry has reacted angrily to a Consumers' Association report alleging that record companies use false arguments on research, development and production costs to charge high prices for compact discs (Libby Jukes writes). Profits at 10 per cent of retail price are lower than many in high-risk businesses, the BPI said. It accuses "Which?" of factual errors, and says there has been a drop in real terms of 40 per cent since their introduction in 1983.

Irish lottery defended

Claims by Irish social welfare bodies that poor people in the republic spend too much on the weekly state lottery are disputed by consultants engaged by the National Lottery. They report that charity fund-raising has not been badly harmed by the lottery, which started three years ago, with tickets costing £1 and payouts sometimes exceeding £1 million. Unemployed people tended to stake less than £2 a week. Small farmers spent most.

Pension fund's Old Masters for US sale

British Rail pensioners will be watching the art market closely next week when 64 of their Old Master drawings go on sale at Sotheby's New York.

The past three months has been an exhilarating time for the fund, which is roughly halfway through disposing of its £40 million stake in fine art, about 1 per cent of its investment portfolio, acquired with the advice of Sotheby's between 1974 and 1980.

The latest figures show that even taking inflation into account it has had a 6.5 per cent profit as at the end of November. That was before its spectacular Tang dynasty horse, estimated at £1 million, sold for a world auction record of £3.74 million last month.

The fund said yesterday: "We are satisfied with the results so far, but it is clearly impossible to give a final answer until the whole portfolio has been dispersed."

A booming art market has helped fund managers achieve good prices. About 66 per cent

CORRECTION

Timothy Smith and Robert Andrews were not sentenced for making pirated copies of compact discs as stated on Thursday. Mr Smith admitted one track of an unreleased Prince album. Mr Andrews admitted making the same Prince album available for sale or hire in record form.



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YOU CAN BE SURE OF SHELL



Cancer victim killed two

Coroner calls for gun club checks after triple shooting

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

Police vetting of potential gun club members was called for by a coroner yesterday after the inquest into three deaths that occurred when a gunman dying of cancer shot dead another member of his gun club and a former workmate before killing himself.

The call came from Mr Peter Revington, the Manchester South coroner, at the inquest into the deaths of Peter Crack, aged 30, and his two victims last October.

Crack shot dead Mr Duncan Allman, aged 31, a computer programmer, at the Stockport Shooting Centre, and then drove to the home of Mr Howard Savage, aged 27, a former colleague whom he disliked and resented, and left him dying in the street.

Recording a verdict of suicide on Crack and verdicts of unlawful killing on Mr Allman and Mr Savage, the coroner called for a review of regulations covering membership of gun clubs and the use of firearms on shooting ranges.

Mr Revington said that Mr James Anderson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, and the area's police authority were pressing for tighter controls. He could not help thinking that Mr Anderson had a "very substantial point in the public interest."

Mr Revington said: "If Crack had to have a gun licence, it might just have been different - I don't know, it could have been that at least

another hurdle would have had to be climbed before he gained possession of a gun for a scheme I believe he had been planning for some time."

After the shootings, the Home Office announced plans for new controls on clubs, now under discussion. They would end temporary or day membership schemes at clubs; require applicants for probationary membership to be supported by two club members; and apply greater controls to probationers.

At the inquest, Mr Derek Bancroft, the gun club owner, said that Crack, a former clothing factory worker, of Audenshaw, Manchester, had paid £75 to join the club three months before the killings and had visited it about five times.

Mr Bancroft said that Crack had visited the club on the night of October 19 and had

been issued with a revolver. Mr Bancroft - while talking to the rangemaster, Mr Tony Healy, his son-in-law - had seen that Crack had left the range and was in a doorway.

Mr Healy had then told Crack that he was not allowed to leave the range and had told him to put the gun down.

"He then pointed the gun at Tony Healy and said 'I am sorry'," said Mr Bancroft.

Mr Healy had dived behind a counter. Mr Allman, of Bramhall, Stockport, a member, had been in the club shop. Crack had passed Mr Allman and then turned and fired at him. Mr Allman had doubled up, saying: "The bastard's shot me, call an ambulance."

Mr Bancroft said that he loaded a .38 calibre Smith and Wesson and pursued Crack, who fired six times at him as he fled through the club bar, where there were 24 members, wives and children.

The inquest heard that Crack, who had Hodgkin's disease, a form of cancer, turned up at Mr Savage's home, at Great Moor, Stockport, where Mr Savage's mother let him in.

She had later heard screaming outside. Mr Savage had died from shots to his head and stomach after walking down the street.

Mrs Denise Crack told the coroner that her husband became depressed after chemotherapy treatment. Weeks before the killings he was told

he had a maximum of three months to live.

She said: "He always kept his emotions under control. He would talk to me about his problems, but he would keep them private from other people."

On the night of the shootings he had dressed and gone out, refusing to tell her where he was going.

Mrs Crack said that the previous year, he had told her that Mr Savage had tried to get him the sack from the factory in Stockport where they both worked as pleaters, before her husband left because of his illness. She thought he disliked Mr Savage, but would not describe it as a grudge.

She had not known that Crack had joined a gun club, although she knew he had discussed the idea with a friend.

The inquest heard that Crack killed himself with one shot to the chest after breaking into the empty house of a friend, Mr Michael McKay, at Heald Green, Manchester.

Mr McKay, a chartered accountant, said that he had been a friend of both Crack and Mr Savage since boyhood. Crack had become depressed when his treatment for cancer was declared unsuccessful.

Mr McKay said Crack had shown resentment when told that Mr Savage planned to take A-levels and go to university for a business degree.



Mrs Denise Crack before yesterday's hearing.

MP alleged former lover could compromise career

By David Sapped

A Labour MP facing charges of theft and criminal damage told police after his arrest that he had gone to his former lover's flat in an attempt to recover possessions that could "compromise" his political career, Lewes Crown Court was told yesterday.

Ron Brown, aged 49, MP for Edinburgh, Leith, and Dalrymple, told the court that he had smashed windows, mirrors and glassware in the flat at St Leonards, East Sussex, and of stealing items of her jewellery and underwear.

On the fourth day of the trial before Judge Gower, QC, the jury listened to a tape recording of a police interview with Mr Brown made a few hours after the alleged incident last April. The MP said his three-year affair with Mrs Nonna Longden, his former assistant, which had ended the previous month, had become the talk of the Commons.

Mr Brown said the only damage he might have caused was when he tried to escape Mr Redmond, who did not catch him, he said, because he was a "slow, ponderous guy".

Mr Brown had said that Mrs Longden had "faciously" stuffed two pairs of her underpants into his raincoat pocket. She had returned a tape recorder and keys but had not given back his tapes and other documents, he said.

The Crown has alleged that Mr Brown arrived unexpectedly at the flat, had been

drinking and had asked Mrs Longden to renew their affair. When she had refused and left with Mr Redmond, according to the prosecution, Mr Brown started smashing up virtually every piece of glass in the flat, causing damage of almost £200 before leaving, taking a picture of Mrs Longden as a baby, a gold brooch, a watch and a pair of earrings.

Later, Mr Redmond was recalled to the witness stand. A tape recording was played of a 999 call he made to police. On it, he had said: "We have in our flat an intruder. It's important you know he's a well-known character, very drunk, he's tearing the place apart, he's not invited and he is threatening violence to the woman who owns the flat."

Mr Redmond said Mr Brown had made no threat of violence towards Mrs Longden, although he insisted the MP had thrown a glass at him.

Mr Rees presented evidence from British Rail which, Mr Redmond agreed, showed he could not have arrived at St Leonards Warrior Square station at about 6.20pm, as he had claimed, but at 7.46pm at the earliest.

Mr Rees disclosed that Mr Brown would not give evidence. The defence case, which consisted of a British Rail witness confirming the train arrival times, lasted less than 10 minutes. The case continues on Monday.

Victoria on anniversary stamps

Queen Victoria's head will appear on an issue of stamps to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black.

A portrait of Queen Victoria, which was used on the original Penny Black, will appear behind the usual portrait of the Queen on the stamps which will be issued from next Wednesday.

Queen Victoria's portrait will be slightly smaller and "almost as if it were a double image", the Royal Mail said.

The stamps (a 20p is pictured below) will be available in all the usual amounts up to 37p.

Sir Rowland Hill designed the first pre-paid letter sheet in 1840. As an afterthought he suggested using an adhesive label incorporating an official stamp.

The 1p charity surcharge on first-class Christmas stamps has raised £500,000 so far and when all 21,000 Post Offices have made their returns the figure is expected to be close to £1 million.



Victory stroll for debaters

FRANK BRADFORD



Mr John Wertheim (left), studying history, and Mr Matt Wolf, studying political science, both of Yale University, strolling in Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow, yesterday after winning the 1990 world student debating championships in Glasgow. Their motion was "Ich Bin Ein Berliner". The Yale team received the Guinness Silver Quail from the Princess Royal.

Prize pays for party or holiday

Three winners shared yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize.

Mrs Dorothy Roberts, a computer operator from Watford, Hertfordshire, said her win was marvellous. She will use the money either on a party for her silver wedding anniversary, or on a summer holiday in Switzerland.

Mrs Ivy French, from Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells in Kent, said she has played Portfolio since it started because she enjoys playing with figures.

The other winner was Mrs Joan Illingworth, from Stockport, Cheshire.

Imprisoned mother can appeal

By Ruth Gledhill

The unmarried mother who was sent to jail with her 10-week-old baby by Judge Pickles was yesterday given leave to appeal against her sentence.

Tracey Scott, aged 19, of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, was denied bail by Mr Justice Judge in chambers at the Court of Appeal in Central London.

She was granted an expedited appeal, probably to take place on January 15.

Afterwards Mr Kenneth Green, Miss Scott's solicitor, said he was not surprised that bail was refused.

He said that for Miss Scott to have come out of prison on bail only to be sent back if the appeal failed would have increased her trauma.

The judge also asked for transcripts of comments Judge Pickles made before Miss Scott was sentenced earlier this week to six months' youth custody on 10 theft charges.

Hillsborough policeman to face inquiry

By Peter Davenport

The actions of the most senior police officer present at the Hillsborough football stadium on the day 95 Liverpool fans were crushed to death on the terraces is to be investigated formally, it was disclosed yesterday.

Members of the South Yorkshire Police Authority decided that a complaint about Mr Walter Jackson, who was assistant chief constable in charge of operations at the time of the disaster, should be investigated under the supervision of the Police Complaints Au-

thority. Their action follows a letter to the authority from Mr Trevor Hicks, of Finner, Middlesbrough, the father of two teenage girls who died in the crush on the Leppings Lane terraces.

According to a statement by the South Yorkshire Police Authority yesterday, Mr Hicks alleged that Mr Jackson may have colluded with Chief Supt David Duckenfield, the officer in operational command at the ground, in telling football representatives "a false story" concerning the opening of a gate at the Hillsborough ground which enabled fans to swarm on to the crowded terraces.

Mr Jackson was transferred in August last year to take responsibility for management services within the force looking after, among other things, finance, catering and buildings.

Chief Supt Duckenfield, who has since admitted misleading his superior officer and football officials about the cause of the disaster, has been suspended from duty since the publication of the report of the inquiry into the disaster by Lord Justice Taylor in August.

West Midlands Police are investigating the actions of certain South Yorkshire officers during the disaster.

Ambulance dispute

London doctors condemn suffering

By Paul Wilkinson, Jill Sherman and Nicholas Watt

Casualty doctors in the London area are concerned about the delays in getting patients to hospital since the start of the ambulance pay dispute.

They discounted suggestions by Dr David Williams, the head of St Thomas hospital casualty department, that fatalities had increased during the dispute, but several said they were worried about the effect on patients of waiting an hour or more before a police or Army vehicle arrived.

"The real problem is the tremendous mental suffering and stress patients suffer as they are left on the roadside waiting for someone to come," Mr Hugh Millington, head of the accident and emergency department at Charing Cross Hospital in Fulham said.

Dr Williams said that 36 people sent to his casualty unit had died since the action began compared with 28 during the same period last year.

He said: "Any single death that might be attributed to problems during the dispute is a cause of great concern."

In one case a man who had been stabbed almost certainly would have survived if he had been brought to hospital earlier, as the first hour after injury, was the most critical period when lives could be saved by expert intervention, he said. The delayed response had meant that the patient arrived at the casualty department at St Thomas's 70 minutes after his injury. He said: "That patient could have survived."

Other accident and emergency specialists in London reported no significant change in their fatalities total.

"Patients often face huge delays and are perhaps in a worse condition than otherwise when they arrive, but they do not actually die," Mr Millington said.

"The police, the Army and the ambulance service say they are coping,

but it is obvious they are not." His department recorded a drop in the total of deaths for the period, from 37 to 20, despite taking the increased workload caused by the closure of St Stephen's casualty unit in Chelsea.

In the case of emergencies like heart attacks, help needed to be on the scene within minutes for a good chance of survival. "Even under normal circumstances that just does not occur," he said.

"It is the cases of medical trauma, as in road accidents when a patient is severely injured and needs supplies of blood immediately, that the problem of the delay arises."

Dr Howard Baderman, head of the accident and emergency department at University College Hospital said no deaths in his department could be attributed to the dispute. He said delays

had increased as a result of the dispute and many patients were suffering from the lack of appropriate equipment and the relative inexperience of staff.

"Many patients have been in extreme pain because the Army and police cannot administer pain killing gases," he said.

Dr Pamela Nash, head of the accident and emergency department at Hillingdon hospital in Uxbridge, said: "I wholeheartedly agree with my colleagues at the Casualty Surgeons' Association."

"Our general impression is that the ambulance dispute is having a serious effect."

"But we have not collated figures of delays in patients arriving by ambulance because our workload is so variable they might mislead."

Dr Anne McGuinness, head of the

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School unions angry at pay bonus plan to solve staff shortages

By David Tyler, Education Editor

A revolution in teachers' pay was heralded yesterday when Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said he wanted bonuses to be paid to specialist classroom staff.

"Schools will have to get used to the idea of differential pay, perhaps through use of incentive allowances for skills in short supply, as in many other occupations," he said.

Mr MacGregor told the North of Education Education Conference that he was waiting for detailed proposals from the Interim Advisory Committee on Teachers' Pay on extra payments to teachers in shortage subjects.

The committee's report on teachers' pay for this year is due in the next few weeks but Mr MacGregor expected it to agree to pay extra allowances to teachers of science, mathematics, technology and modern languages. He said that geography and history might be included in future.

Mr MacGregor told the conference in Newcastle upon Tyne: "The Government is firmly of the view that flexible pay schemes which allow the targeting of additional payments to meet specific needs are the right way to address problems of recruitment and retention."

The changes in pay scales have already been resisted by the teacher unions, which believe that as all teachers do fundamentally the same job they should be paid on the same scale. Some union leaders believe it could result in bad teachers in certain subjects being paid more than good teachers in others.

Already about 40 per cent of teachers receive extra allowances but in most cases they are for increased responsibility. Yesterday was the first time the Government had committed itself so firmly to differential pay as a means of attracting sufficient numbers of high-quality graduates.

Mr MacGregor rejected claims of a general teacher shortage and claimed the Government was already taking steps to deal with specific problems.

"We must maintain our share of young graduates. We must attract mature people into teaching from other careers," he said.

The call for differential pay scales was immediately attacked by union leaders at the conference. Mr John Horn, president of the secondary heads association, said: "It is unworkable. You are going to create a situation where teachers of some subjects will be drawn to work in an area for which they are not properly qualified in the hope of getting extra money."

Mr Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "It will only lead to division in schools. The National Curriculum will require every subject to be taught effectively. If you pay one subject teacher better than another you are hardly likely to encourage those who are not receiving extra payments just because they are not in short supply."

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The original Beatle who forsook music



Above, Stuart Sutcliffe (left) with other Beatles, including Pete Best (right), the group's first drummer, and a German photographer. Below, Miss Pauline Sutcliffe, the artist's sister, with a painting showing John Lennon holding a beer glass.



An exhibition of abstract art by the late Stuart Sutcliffe, the Beatle who gave up music, was launched yesterday.

The show of 55 works by Sutcliffe, the original bass guitarist with the Beatles, opens at Sotheby's George Street Gallery, central London, on Monday.

Sutcliffe, who died of a brain tumour aged 21 in 1962, chose art when he could not stand the strain of studying by day and playing with the group every night.

Born in Edinburgh, he met John Lennon while they were students at Liverpool College of Art in 1957. He became bass guitarist with Lennon's group, Johnny and the Moon-dogs, and played with the group at the Top Ten Club, Hamburg, after it changed its name to the Silver Beatles.

However, the young artist became disillusioned and said he never wanted to paint again. He was persuaded to enter the Hamburg State Art College, where he stayed until a month before he died.

His sister, Miss Pauline Sutcliffe, said: "I don't think it was a difficult decision for him to give up music for art. But it was more than that. There were close friendships, particularly with John Lennon, and an interesting life."

Lennon, who was shot dead in New York in 1980, features in an early oil painting of students at Liverpool College of Art. Also on show are photographs and letters.

Annual reports made obligatory

For the first time every school in England and Wales will be expected to issue annual reports on all pupils, under new regulations announced at the conference (David Tyler writes).

Mr MacGregor said that "a high proportion" of primary schools and some secondary schools failed to provide any reports at all. The new-style reports will be issued next summer and will have to record children's progress in every aspect of the National Curriculum.

In addition, at the ages of seven, 11, 14 and 16 schools will have to provide parents with details of their children's regular assessment tests, which are part of the curriculum.

Mr MacGregor said the formal require-

ments had been kept to a minimum because he did not want to impose undue extra burdens on staff training would be provided. It had yet to be decided whether reports would be written on standard forms although Mr MacGregor said this had definite advantages.

Schools are being asked to plan the best way to provide reports that cover the range of lessons and other related activities in or out of school. "It is important to give schools and local authorities the chance to design and evaluate their own systems and to modify them in the light of experience. Schools will certainly want to keep track of pupils' progress in the curriculum," Mr MacGregor said.

problems of difficult East End schools. A spokesman for the Ilea said: "We are very pleased with the way it has worked out, although we got a lot of stick at the start. We want to hand over a going concern when Ilea is abolished."

The authority, which is due to hand over its schools and colleges to the 13 inner

London boroughs on April 1, still has more than 1,000 teaching vacancies.

This year, a team of Ilea officials is to recruit teachers in Bangladesh with the blessing of the Department of Education, which has agreed to a formula for recognizing their qualifications.

Miss Yvonne Hargreaves, headmistress of Hague Primary School, Bethnal Green, one of the first schools to appoint a Dutch teacher, has only praise for Miss Iona Lether, aged 22, a teacher from Utrecht. "She has proved herself a very professional teacher and the class had the same teacher for the whole term. I have got one class who are already onto their second teacher and we are not out of the first term yet. Stability and continuity are very precious."

Eighteen teachers have resigned from the school in the past two years.



Miss Iona Lether. "A very professional teacher."

Warning as ship is abandoned

Ships in the English Channel were warned yesterday to give wide berth to a 7,000-tonne bulk carrier after it was abandoned (Robin Young writes).

Two Royal Navy helicopters helped to evacuate 22 crewmen from the Panamanian-registered Pioneer Sea 25 miles west of Ushant, France, early yesterday.

The captain was taken to a French hospital suffering from the effects of smoke. The ship was being towed to Brest by a Dutch tug.

● The RSPCA sent a specialist unit yesterday to treat about 300 sea birds coated in crude oil which were washed ashore near Looe, Cornwall.

The RSPCA said the oil was washed up by recent storms. "About 90 per cent of the victims are guillemots, but there are some cormorants and gannets as well," it said.

Some were being cleaned on the spot. Others were being housed until they recovered, but many were beyond help.

Scheme to recruit foreign teachers judged a success

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

A scheme to solve the shortage of teachers in East London by recruiting foreign teachers is to be stepped up after receiving a glowing end of term report from parents and school principals.

Figures from the Inner London Education Authority show that of 60 Dutch, four Danish and 11 Barbadian teachers recruited in September, only three have given up and gone home.

The authority plans to appoint a further 40 Dutch teachers in the New Year and is to launch a recruitment campaign in Bangladesh.

Parents, many of whom were at first critical of what was seen as an initiative born of desperation, are pleased with the stability the foreign teachers have brought. In the past, classes had become used to changing teachers two or three times a term. There also has been praise for their commitment in tackling the

problems of difficult East End schools. A spokesman for the Ilea said: "We are very pleased with the way it has worked out, although we got a lot of stick at the start. We want to hand over a going concern when Ilea is abolished."

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London boroughs on April 1, still has more than 1,000 teaching vacancies.

Penalty for coal-face cider party

Fourteen miners were downgraded yesterday after admitting holding a Christmas party two miles below ground.

The men, mainly top-grade development workers and craftsmen, will face pay cuts for contravening strict rules banning alcohol below ground.

They were suspended after the remains of their celebration, which included turkey, mince pies and cider, were found during a safety inspection over the Christmas break.

The party was held at Deep Navigation Colliery, Trelewis, Mid Glamorgan, on December 22, the last working day before the Christmas shutdown.

British Coal said: "The consumption of alcohol below ground is specifically forbidden under mining legislation and there was a clear and admitted breach of the regulations. The men were told they would be downgraded to the lowest grade in their category and warned any future misconduct could lead to dismissal."

By the time it became clear they could claim, as a result of a case in 1983, they were barred from applying because

Court fight to compensate 2,500 dismissed fishermen

By Ruth Gledhill

A human rights organization is demanding compensation for thousands of fishermen who lost jobs after the Icelandic cod war in the 1970s.

The Wilberforce Council, named after the slave emancipator William Wilberforce, plans to take the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

In a report published today the council is calling for an average £4,000 compensation for each of the 2,500 fishermen it estimates lost their jobs without compensation or redundancy payments.

According to the report, sent to all members of Parliament, fishermen did not at first realize they could be entitled to redundancy payments because employment officials wrongly treated them as "casual" labour.

By the time it became clear they could claim, as a result of a case in 1983, they were barred from applying because

claims must be submitted within a year of redundancy. The council said the legal situation is confused and messy because some fishermen have won industrial tribunal cases while others have lost.

An appeal decision in a case where two fishermen won their right to redundancy pay at a Hull industrial tribunal in 1988 is due this month.

Mr Jack Lennard, executive director of the Wilberforce Council, said trawler owners received more than £15 million for redundant ships while their dismissed employees received nothing.

"These men lost their jobs through reasons of diplomacy, defence strategy, and international relations, all totally outside their control."

The council said many were suffering immense hardship. The cost of compensation could be shared by the Government, trawler owners and

the European Community. ● The National Union of Seamen is to lobby government employment officials to prevent fishermen being offered low-paid jobs through job centres on ships not registered in this country.

A spokesman said the collapse of the fishing industry had meant that young men who wished to work at sea were increasingly limited by the jobs available, forcing many to take dangerous jobs on "flag of convenience" ships.

Mr Sam McCluskie, general secretary of the union, recently cited the case of Mark Rannigan, aged 16, from Jarrow, Tyne and Wear, who obtained a job on the Panamanian-registered freighter the Marine after answering an advertisement in his local job centre.

He and five other British crew members are now missing, presumed dead.

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Inquiry after death of boy angers staff

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

Staff at a boarding school run according to the teachings of the Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, where a boy aged 13 was found hanging last month, yesterday reacted angrily to news that the Department of Education and Science is to investigate it.

Mr John MacGregor, the Secretary of State for Education, has called for an urgent report from the Ko Heman school into the death of Nicholas Shultz after it was revealed that the teenager had been sharing a bedroom with three other boys and two girls.

Mr MacGregor is particularly concerned that young people were allowed to share dormitories with the opposite sex. The department said such practices were "irregular".

Mr Swami Sharma, pastoral leader of the school, said: "We have absolutely nothing to hide."

He accused some people of having a "distilling and morbid preoccupation with someone else's tragedy".

The school, a former rectory at Chawleigh, Devon, has 58 boarders, children of devotees of the guru from all over the world who pay £3,750 a year.

The school was registered by the DES last year after investigations by the schools inspectorate.

Mr MacGregor can shut down an independent school or withdraw registration, which would mean its closure. However, yesterday the school was given an endorsement by the parents of the dead boy, who lives in Western Australia; they are to send a second child there.

Earlier this week the North Devon coroner Mr Brian Hall-Tomlin recorded a verdict of accidental death on Nicholas, who was found hanging from a swing after an argument with a girl.

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Cultural capital blighted by 'deserts of poverty'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

While Glasgow celebrates its new title as the cultural capital of Europe, thousands of its citizens are living in "deserts of long-term unemployment and poverty", a researcher claimed yesterday.

A few miles from the city centre, with its riches of opera, theatre, art galleries and museums and new shopping arcades, huge sprawling housing estates were emerging as "cashless societies", Dr Michael Pacione, head of the geography department at Strathclyde University, said. He called for a massive

government-funded initiative to tackle the problems.

Speaking at the conference of the Institute of British Geographers in Glasgow, Dr Pacione said that poverty was manifest in the estates ringing the city. "These outer areas are emerging as 'cashless societies' and deserts of long-term unemployment as a result of a combination of global economic restructuring and ineffective urban policies."

Local shops have had to close because of the poverty in the area, restricting the choice of shoppers in already poorly serviced areas such as Easterhouse, Castlemilk and Drum-

chapel. The infant death rate in Easterhouse, one of the largest housing estates on the fringes of the city, was 33 per cent higher than the figure for Glasgow as a whole. "Quite simply, poverty kills," he said.

Deaths in the first year of life in Easterhouse were 46 per 1,000 births, compared with ten per thousand in the middle-class suburb of Bishopbriggs.

The increased indebtedness of many families on the estates had led to an increase in rent arrears, absconding, eviction and disconnection of the power supply. In one

area, one in four tenants who left had been evicted.

"Local resources are insufficient to generate growth on the scale required. Central government's hope of revitalization through 'capitalism with a social conscience' is a chimera," Dr Pacione said.

"What is required is a government-funded initiative, similar to that directed towards inner-city areas such as the Gorbals and the east end, or the new towns."

"Without this commitment, the peripheral estates are destined to remain the locus of the urban crisis well into the twenty-first century."

British geographers' conference at Glasgow

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Child routine clue to drinkers

Strict rules imposed on children by their parents at home may lead to some of the youngsters growing up to become problem drinkers, researchers believe.

The theory is an example of "boundary crossing" in which boundaries are set up within families to partition domestic space and constrain activities. Children, for example, are told to stay in their own room at specific times. There could be rules about what time they left home, or returned.

"While some boundaries are erected routinely by parents in the course of child rearing, in some circumstances they can be regarded as oppressive, inducing stress and anxiety," Mr Geoff Lowe and Mr David Sibley say in a paper presented to the conference today.

In such cases, the individuals "react by transgressing, breaking the bounds of acceptable behaviour, for example, by drinking excessively."

Mr Lowe, a psychologist, and Mr Sibley, a geographer, carried out a survey among a group of men and women in Hull, Humberside, who were receiving counselling for alcoholism. They found that almost half those taking part had grown up in families with "strong boundary enforcement" by their parents.

As children, some had to share a bedroom with a brother or sister when they were more than 11 years old. "What we are suggesting is that the timing and spacing of activities in the home is a reflection of power relationships in the family, and that domestic routines can be a source of conflict, contributing to problems such as alcoholism," Mr Sibley said yesterday.

"Experience of rigid domestic regimes in childhood and adolescence may lead to problem behaviour in adolescence." The theory could be of therapeutic value in encouraging problem drinkers to talk about their early home lives.

"It does appear that exploration of the question of boundaries in the home could be a useful element of therapy, given that some of those we surveyed were able to associate unhappiness in childhood with very strong or very weak boundary enforcement," Mr Sibley said.

£600m boom in golf decried

Plans for a £600 million development in new golf courses in Scotland in the next few years could be harmful to the environment, according to a university researcher.

The new "golf boom" is a response to an expanding international market in golf-related tourism, Dr Robert Price said.

There are 19 large golf centres either under construction or on the drawing board in Scotland. Twenty-five 18-hole courses and four nine-hole courses are planned.

Many are linked with luxury hotels, upmarket housing and timeshare apartments, creating about 2,500 permanent jobs, Dr Price said.

Compared with other countries, Scotland has a high level of golf provision, with one course for 13,000 people, compared to one for every 36,000 in England.

Dr Price, of the geography and topographic science department of Glasgow University, said the new courses would be of little benefit to local golfers.

Many of them would be exclusively for the use of hotel residents and homeowners, charging green fees of £20 or more.

"Scotland has increasingly become the destination of golfing tourists," Dr Price said. "The major golf resorts of St Andrews, Turnberry, Gleneagles, Carnoustie, Troon and North Berwick have been under increasing pressure, particularly from foreign visitors."

"It is therefore not surprising that a large proportion of the £600 million of golf-related developments on the drawing board are aimed at the top end of the tourist market."

However, the impact of the developments on the environment needed to be studied, he said.

Scientists and doctors form new links with Eastern bloc

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Britain is to forge closer medical and scientific links with the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc nations.

The British Medical Association has signed an agreement that will provide Polish doctors with research material published in Western medical journals that are virtually unobtainable in Poland.

Under the arrangement with the Polish health ministry, material from the BMA Library in London will be communicated frequently by satellite.

Similar arrangements may follow in 1990 with Hungary and other Eastern European states.

In a separate move, the Royal Society, which helps to promote international scientific relations, is to double the volume of its exchanges with the Soviet Academy of Sciences. It will also set up a programme to allow young British and Soviet scientists to do research in each other's country.

In a third development, involving Hungary, the British Government is giving £5 million over the next four years to help to build an international extension to the Peto Institute, Budapest, which educates children with

cerebral palsy and disorders of the central nervous system.

The grant will guarantee places for British children at the centre, and will enable British health professionals to be trained there. About 600 children from the UK have visited the institute.

Dr John Dawson, head of the BMA's professional and scientific division, said of the Polish agreement: "We hope it will enable Polish doctors to improve their ability to treat patients by giving them access to the latest research work."

The dramatic changes in the political climate between East and West has made possible medical co-operation that



Dr John Dawson: Political changes helping science.

would have been inconceivable only a few months ago."

The Polish connection has been achieved with the help of Satellife, an American non-profit organization that uses space communications to disseminate health information internationally.

Satellife received a grant from a Polish-American charity and has in turn given the BMA funds to provide research material to Poland. The BMA has talked to medical societies in Hungary about increased medical exchanges.

Mr Duncan Thomson, of the Royal Society's USSR department, said: "We have agreed a major expansion of our programme of scientific exchanges with the Soviet Academy of Sciences. The Russians are taking a greater interest in science internationally and have much to offer us. Co-operation is flourishing in the current spirit of openness, and will benefit both our countries."

The arrangement was made during a visit to Moscow by Royal Society representatives last month. Sir George Porter, president of the society, signed new agreements with Professor Guiry Marchuk, president of the Soviet Academy.

The expansion allows 100

British and Russian scientists to spend a month in each others' country, compared to 50 previously.

Medical scientists are developing an alternative technique to whole organ transplants, which, if successful, could cut waiting lists for kidney and liver transplants (Nick Nuttall writes).

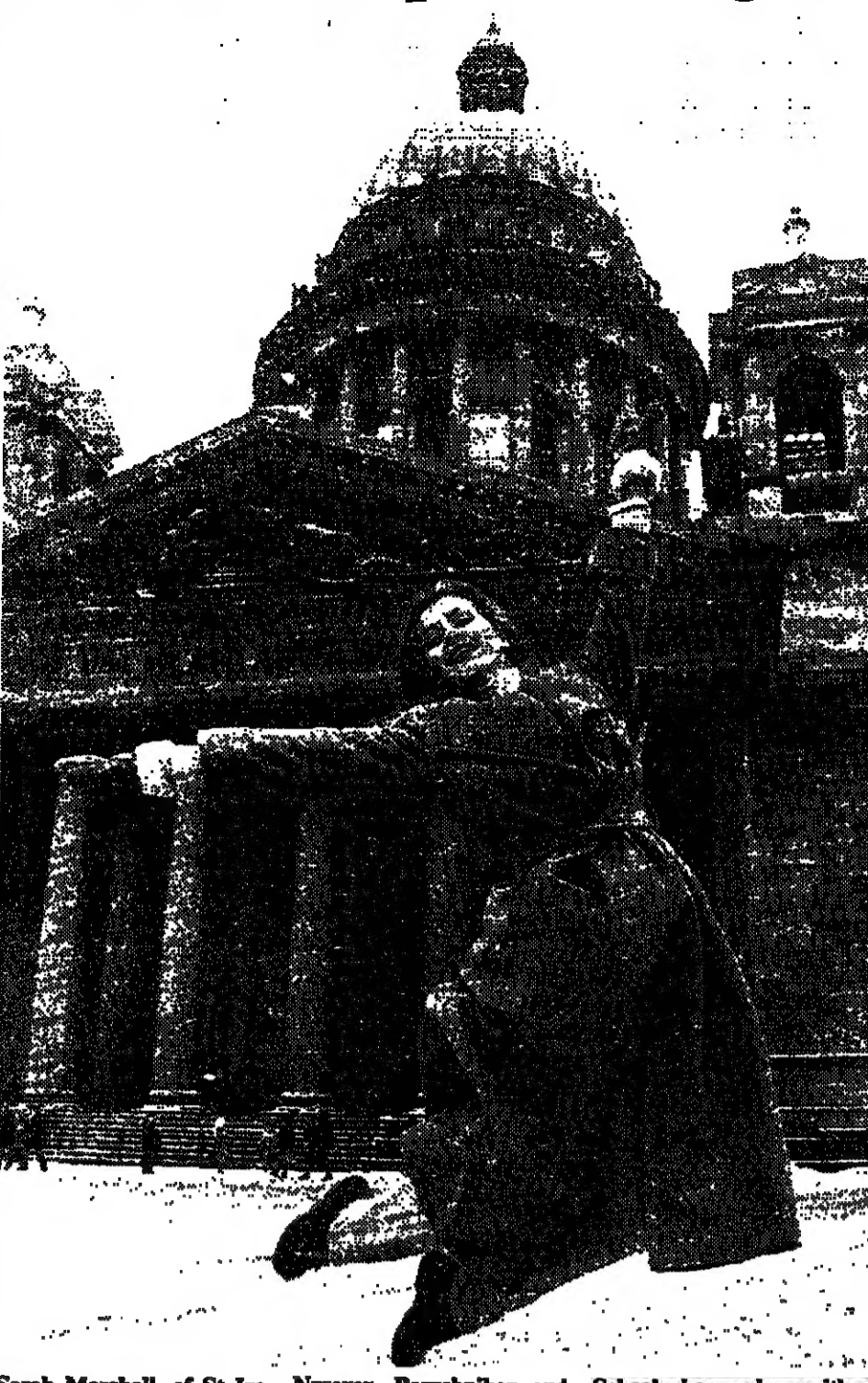
It involves implanting individual cells, rather than a whole organ, into patients.

However, the method's success hinges on a plastic scaffold, being developed by the team, that supports the cells, allowing them to flourish. Its special plastic ensures that individual liver cells are kept close enough to communicate chemically. It also promotes the growth of blood vessels and degrades harmlessly in the body after performing its task.

Transplant tests in rats have produced encouraging results, according to Mr Joseph Vacanti, director of the liver transplantation programme at the Children's Hospital in Boston, United States.

However, Mr Vacanti, whose team's work is reported in *Discover*, an American science magazine, says they are still some way from being able to replicate a whole organ from individual cells.

Student's leap to Leningrad



Sarah Marshall, of St Ives, near Liskeard, Cornwall, performing a balletic leap in Leningrad, where she is following in the footsteps of Nureyev, Baryshnikov and Makarova as a student at the famed Kirov Ballet School. Sarah, aged 18, a student at the English National Ballet School who was born with a displaced hip, was the only one of her peers picked to study at the school, where she will remain until April.

Campaign launched to save psychiatric hospital

By Kerry Gill

Health workers yesterday launched a campaign to stop the closure of the biggest psychiatric hospital in the Scottish Highlands after a government recommendation that its 480 patients should be transferred to two other hospitals.

Members of the Confederation of Health Service Employees oppose what they regard as "backdoor privatization" by Mr Michael Forsyth, Minister of Health at the Scottish Office.

Under the proposals, patients at Craig Dunain Hospital near Inverness would be moved to the Craig Phadrig Hospital for the mentally handicapped and the main medical unit at Raigmore hospital.

The union says the proposals are tantamount to privatization because some patients will have to be cared for by the private sector.

The union says that Craig Dunain is ideal for psychiatric care as it has its own grounds on the outskirts of Inverness.

Facilities include a golf course, swimming pool, bowling green and sports area.

The Highland Health Board will make its decision on Mr Forsyth's suggestion on January 19, but the union wants to gain public support with its campaign beforehand.

Mr Kevin Bass, for the union, said: "This will be a short and sweet campaign. A petition will be handed to the board on the day of the meeting and the union will hold a public meeting attended by Mr Forsyth, the Scottish TUC and local health councils, two days earlier."

"We don't know exactly what will happen, but we have to prepare for a longer campaign in case the decision goes against us."

"We fully expect the board to back Mr Forsyth because, after all, he holds the purse strings."

Mr Forsyth wants between 40 and 60 beds transferred to Raigmore hospital, with as many moving out of Craig Dunain to accommodate the influx from Craig Dunain, which has served the area since 1860.

The unions fear jobs will be lost in the move.

Mr Bass said: "We fear we could lose at least 80 nursing jobs. We do not really know the consequences for domestic and ancillary staff."

The hospital is a listed building, so it is unlikely to be demolished if it is closed down.

The union believes it will be sold off and that there is a possibility that it will be converted into a timeshare complex.

Closure of two old steel plants will lose 500 jobs

By Kerry Gill

More than 500 jobs are to be lost in Glasgow and Manchester through the closure of two structural steel plants owned by Redpath Dorman Long, a subsidiary of the

Tramcar House group.

The company is shutting the two plants over the next four months and concentrating production at a more modern factory in Darlington, Co Durham.

The two plants produce steel for the building industry. The decision to close them follows an analysis by the company of its future after the completion of the Single European Market in 1992.

More than 300 jobs are to go at Cambuslang, Glasgow, with few employees expected to transfer to Darlington. The rest of the job losses will be at the factory at Trafford Park, Manchester.

Both plants are old and cannot compare with the Darlington works, opened only eight years ago and considered to be one of the most modern of its type in Europe.

The company believes that the move will improve performance, create greater flexibility for customers and streamline business operations. Off-

shore work will not be affected by the cutbacks and the group's fabricating capacity is also to be retained.

Meanwhile, shop stewards at the Clydesdale Tube Works in Lanarkshire yesterday demanded a meeting with Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, to seek assurances that the Government will do all it can to avert closure.

There have been recent widespread fears for the future of the entire Scottish steel industry. Yesterday, after a meeting with Mr Ian Lang, the minister responsible for Scottish industry, stewards said the minister's verbal support for their case was not good enough.

They had expected a meeting with Mr Rifkind, arguing that only the Secretary of State could influence the Cabinet. Mr Lang expressed his concern about the future of the Bellshill plant and supported union leaders calling for further investment at a meeting in Glasgow.

However, he said the Government could not influence investment decisions by British Steel. Mrs Thatcher has already indicated that the Government would not use its

golden share to influence any commercial decision.

Mr John Lafferty, the stewards' convener, said afterwards: "We are disappointed that Mr Lang said he had no influence over British Steel considering the Government is a major shareholder in it."

"We have got his verbal support in the sense that he says he will speak to British Steel and put forward our proposals for the future of the plant, but his attitude is that they have no influence. Now we want a meeting with Mr Rifkind himself."

He added: "We pointed out that if we do not continue making tubes the business will go to a foreign competitor because nowhere else in Britain can do it."

A spokesman for Mr Lang said: "Although decisions on investment and planning are matters for the company in the light of their assessment of market considerations, Scottish Office ministers remain concerned about the future of the plant and are keeping in close touch with developments."

Mr Lang confirmed that he would in principle be supportive of any plans for new investment by the company."

Compromise on landmark Plan to save tower and fossil-rich cliff

By Michael Horsnell

The eighteenth-century Naze Tower, atop crumbling cliffs at Walton on the Naze, Essex, is less than 50 yards from falling into the North Sea.

The tower is on the brink of disaster after a 15-year dispute between the local authority and the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC).

While Tendring District Council wants to preserve the famous landmark and surrounding headland from further coastal erosion, conservationists have successfully protested that the cliffs should not be shored up.

The red rag of the Naze, which is designated as a site of special scientific interest, is one of the world's most valuable and extensive deposits of bird fossils. The NCC wants to assure its continued exposure to the elements.

However, provisional agreement has almost been reached on a £250,000 compromise in the debate over the future of fossils, including 50 million-year-old cockroaches from the Eocene period, or the 260-year-old observation tower.

It will be submitted early next year to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for approval.

While research on tidal

Poll tax could free 7,000 more

Ministers believe an extra 7,000 Scots could qualify for exemption from the community charge because of new rules on mental impairment.

The concession goes to people who collect social security because they are senile, or because mental illness has brought on a degenerative brain disorder.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under-Secretary of State at the Scottish Office, yesterday said: "I hope all those now entitled to the exemption, or those who care for them, will take advantage of it by applying immediately."

When the poll tax started in Scotland last April the Government was criticized for not exempting sufferers from Alzheimer's disease.

At the Tory conference in October, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, announced that would change. His package also included a relief scheme for some poll tax payers and gave Scotland the same concessions as those planned for England.

The mental impairment exemption only came into effect last week. The result should be that a total of 15,000 mentally impaired people will not pay poll tax, instead of the 8,000 who were exempted last April.

Neck pains in unexplained rise

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Britain is becoming a nation of "pain in the necks", according to studies prepared for the Arthritis and Rheumatism Research Council.

At any given time more than one in 10 of adults are experiencing some discomfort in the neck, with or without associated arm pain.

A study by Dr Brian Hazleman, a specialist in rheumatic problems of the neck and shoulder at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, shows that shoulder complaints rank fifth among rheumatic conditions as the cause of incapacity and visits to the doctor.

Doctors report an increase in the number of people coming to see them with pains in the neck and shoulders, but there is no obvious explanation for the increase.

Dr Hazleman, who has researched the

condition for 15 years, believes people may simply not be putting up with this painful complaint any more and are seeking relief.

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council has published two pamphlets, called *Pain in the Neck* and *The Painful Shoulder*, as the focus for Arthritis Education Week next week.

The booklets list causes of temporary pains and stiffness, explain disorders like frozen shoulder and discuss conditions that might show developing arthritis.

Dr Hazleman says sufferers are right to seek help because more aid can now be given with recent advances in diagnosis and treatment.

Booklets are available from the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR (20p sac).

Boat owners alerted in rabies drive

By Suzy Price

The Government yesterday launched an anti-rabies campaign aimed at stopping boat owners from bringing their pets and other animals into the country illegally.

Mr John Gummer, Minister for Agriculture, said one family travelling round France in a yacht or motor launch with a family pet would be enough to allow rabies to become endemic in the UK, leading to the destruction of wildlife and farm animals and extensive immunization for humans.

The start of the publicity drive was held at the Boat Show at Earls Court in London because, Mr Gummer said, the increasing number of



Mr Gummer: "Small boats posing a special risk."

and a video about the risk of rabies and the ministry hopes to drive the message home to travel firms, overseas visitors,

embassies and school children. Whenever a boat enters the UK, the owner must notify customs if there are animals or birds on board and any animal arriving in Britain must be kept in quarantine for six months, by which time it will exhibit symptoms of rabies if present. No one has caught the disease in Britain for 60 years.

Last year 150,000 dogs, cats and other animals were legally brought in under licence and put in quarantine compared to nearly 195,000 the year before. Thirty-eight dogs, 28 cats and 93 other mammals were brought in illegally and there were 29 prosecutions.

The maximum penalty is an unlimited fine and or up to a year in jail.

Winkle eaters unaware of hazard

By Daniel Treisman

Winkle pickers around Whitehaven, Cumbria, have not been warned that shellfish from local beaches contain potentially hazardous levels of cadmium because regulatory bodies do not agree about whose responsibility it is.

Samples of winkles taken from four beaches by the North West Water Authority contained an average 8.3mg of cadmium per kilogram of winkles. The World Health Organization's recommended maximum annual intake is 26mg.

A separate study by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, monitoring radioactivity levels in surface and coastal waters found that typical local fish eaters consume 8.3kg of winkles a year. If all were gathered from polluted beaches, consumers would be taking in nearly three times the WHO limit.

No warning signs have been placed on the beaches, however, because the regulatory bodies do not agree on who is responsible. The Ministry of Agri-

culture, which monitors food safety, says the winkles are not sold in local food shops and fishing for private consumption does not fall within its jurisdiction.

"It would be the responsibility of the water authority to warn fishermen if there was a hazard," the ministry said.

However the north-west division of the National Rivers Authority said it did not

It is not part of our remit to stop people eating them

have medical officers who could evaluate the risk. "We are not a health authority so it is not really part of our remit to stop people eating the things."

The authority was testing shellfish to check pollutant levels did not contravene a European Community directive requiring that cadmium concentration does not "increase significantly with time". The results were forwarded to the Depart-

ment of the Environment, which sent them on to Brussels, a spokesman said.

However, the local environmental health officer never received them.

The Whitehaven firm of Albright and Wilson, which manufactures detergents, is authorized to dump industrial waste into the sea. Mr Andrew Lees, of the water and toxics department of the environmental group Friends of the Earth, said the discharge included "what appears to be the largest discharge of cadmium anywhere in Europe".

Albright and Wilson says that although its own monitoring, conducted by an independent consultant, reveals no harm to the local marine environment, the firm intends to reduce cadmium discharges within about two years.

Friends of the Earth said the confusion showed the urgent need to replace the unco-ordinated system of pollution control with a single environmental protection agency.

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ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT THIS INFORMATION APPLIES TO ENGLAND. SIMILAR BENEFIT ARRANGEMENTS APPLY IN SCOTLAND AND WALES BUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSITIONAL RELIEF DIFFER IN WALES.

Papal Nuncio's crucial role in surrender of Noriega

General beaten by 11-day campaign of mental pressure

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

Federal prisoner 41586, otherwise known as General Manuel Noriega, was being held in an undisclosed Miami-area location yesterday, his lawyer said. A tight security blanket was clamped on the general and federal officials refused to discuss his whereabouts.

As he spent his first full day in custody in the US, Mr Frank Rubino, his lawyer, said that General Noriega surrendered on Wednesday night following statements that Panama would revoke the diplomatic status of the Papal Nuncio, whose mission in Panama City was surrounded by angry crowds and US military personnel.

Although Vatican officials still insist that the general left the compound voluntarily, a spokesman for the nunciature in Panama City said he surrendered to the Americans because he was told the Vatican embassy's protection would be withdrawn at noon on Thursday and Panamanian forces invited to arrest him.

In Washington, a senior US administration official confirmed that the Vatican had planned to order him to leave by noon on Thursday.

The ultimatum, presented to the fallen dictator by Monsignor Juan Sebastian Laboa, marked the culmination of a remarkable 11-day campaign of psychological pressure by the Papal Nuncio which finally snapped the will of the man who had ruled

Panama so ruthlessly. Until 1983 Monsignor Laboa headed the Vatican tribunal which investigated miracles.

More details of Mr Laboa's crucial role in the surrender emerged yesterday. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, Monsignor Laboa would taunt him with questions like: "Do you want nuns washing your underwear for the rest of your life?" He said that General Noriega could expect to go to the toughest prison if he delayed. "If you wait too

Havana (Reuters) - Vice-President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said Cuba did not recognize the new Government of Panama. He indicated that Cuba would give moral and political support to opposition, but ruled out military help.

long you will be sitting in Alcatraz."

He made it abundantly clear that the general was an unwelcome guest. One by one he closed off the options, bluntly telling him that no third country wanted him and that even if one did, he would probably share the fate of the exiled Nicaraguan dictator, Anastasio Somoza, who was assassinated while driving his luxury car in Paraguay.

Wednesday's demonstration outside the embassy by 15,000 Panamanians chanting "Justice", "Assassin" and "Hitler" persuaded General Noriega that American justice

might be preferable to trial in his own country.

The Pro Nuncio reportedly staged loud conversations outside Noriega's room in which he spoke of the dire consequences of not surrendering. "Laboa was the key. He just kept at it and at it," said one diplomat. After General Noriega made his decision, Mr Laboa ensured he was constantly accompanied by embassy staff and kept from fellow fugitives to ensure he did not change his mind.

The *Washington Times* reported that during his flight to Miami General Noriega cried, regretted his surrender, and declared in Spanish: "I really put my foot in it this time." One of his guards read to him from the Bible. Before leaving the aircraft he posed, smiling, for photographs with the crew.

General Noriega's tumble from dictator to criminal defendant ended in the strict security of a US courtroom late on Thursday. His lawyer contended that he is a political prisoner and refused to enter a plea on charges that he took \$4.6 million in bribes to turn his nation into a way station for the cocaine trade. In a soft voice, he answered Judge William Hoelwer's initial inquiries, but declined to reply to the drug charges. "General Noriega refuses to submit to the jurisdiction of this court... because he is a political prisoner brought to this country illegally," said his counsel.



A Panamanian exile in Miami spelling out her feelings about General Noriega's overthrow.

Hanoi allows America's old allies to leave

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Vietnam yesterday took another step towards reconciliation with the West when it allowed the first group of officials who had been imprisoned for working with the Americans in the war to leave for the United States.

Many in the group of 158 who arrived in Bangkok from Ho Chi Minh City on the first stage of their journey were middle-aged, former South Vietnamese military officers and civilian officials who had been associated with the Americans at a senior level against the Communists.

Some were accompanied by wives, children and other relatives. Others were going to rejoin families they had not seen since they were locked up when the Vietnam war ended almost 15 years ago.

On arrival in Bangkok they were taken to a prison for illegal immigrants. They are not classified as normal arrivals and will be held behind bars until they fly to their new homes next week.

All the former officials had spent at least three years in re-education camps, some as long as 13 years.

Earlier Hanoi said they were allowed to emigrate for humanitarian reasons and were not being rejected because of their past hostility to the Communist regime.

The US Government had been asking Vietnam for the past seven years to free them, but Hanoi agreed only last July. At that time a senior American official said: "It will heal the last big wound remaining from the war."

Their release also meets one of the demands Washington has long made before it will

establish normal relations with Vietnam and provide it with aid.

The others are Vietnam's acceptance of a comprehensive political settlement in Cambodia and Hanoi's co-operation in resolving the fate of American servicemen listed as missing in the war.

Vietnam's help has speeded up the recovery of American remains in the past two years and searches for those listed as missing in action are being conducted with greater urgency.

Resettlement of 100,000 former prisoners from re-education camps is now expected to be handled with similar urgency. The US practice is to accept all those Vietnamese who had long-term connections with American policies during the war.

According to the Hanoi Government only about 120 prisoners are left in the re-education camps.

Former prisoners say their conditions varied greatly from camp to camp. Some men were forced to do long periods of hard labour and endured harsh living conditions and inadequate food. Many older men died.

There were also lengthy sessions of political indoctrination and "self-examination" aimed at convincing them of their past sins and of the merits of Communism.

A former lieutenant-colonel said that he found life in his camp in winter very hard as he was used to warmer weather in southern Vietnam.

However, a former army lieutenant said that his experience in the camp where he was held was "not too bad".

WORLD ROUNDUP

China frees jailed student activists

Peking (AP) - The Chinese Government has released three Peking college students jailed for taking part in the pro-democracy movement, and Chinese sources said yesterday that other activists had been released recently.

However, they added that the releases did not mean a softening of the Chinese authorities' opposition to democratic reform. They said more troops were brought into Peking after the Roman uprising last month which prompted protests and illegal wall posters on several Peking campuses. Most soldiers now remain inside walled compounds in the city and military bases in the suburbs and the increased presence could not be detected. It is widely believed that troops and police have been on alert for the past two weeks, with all leaves cancelled, and that plans to lift martial law, imposed last May, were cancelled.

Iraqi peace proposals

Nicosia - President Saddam Hussein of Iraq put forward three proposals yesterday which he said would revive stalled peace negotiations with Iran (Michael Theodorou writes). These included direct talks between Baghdad and Tehran, the unconditional release of sick and wounded prisoners-of-war, and the opening of borders to allow the resumption of visits to Islamic shrines in both countries. There was no immediate response from Tehran, but analysts said the Iranian leadership would reject the package because it side-stepped UN Security Council resolution 598 which it insists is the only basis for peace. The resolution brought a ceasefire in the Gulf War 17 months ago, but there has been no tangible progress in implementing its other provisions.

Rail sabotage possible

Karachi - Miss Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan's Prime Minister, believes sabotage cannot be ruled out as the cause of the train disaster in which at least 300 people died (Zahid Hussain writes). The disaster, the worst involving a train in the country's history, happened on Wednesday night when a fast passenger train to Karachi collided with a stationary goods train at Sangi in Sindh province. Miss Bhutto, who arrived at the site of the tragedy yesterday morning, said three railway officials had been on duty at the time. She has appointed a committee under a judge to investigate.

Dating game was up

Jerusalem - An Israeli Arab was detained by police this week after he posed as a Jewish Norwegian model on a dating game show (A Correspondent writes). The *Yedioth Aharnot* newspaper reported that Mr Mohammed Shahadeh went on the television show and was questioned with two other men by Miss Smadar Noga, a Tel Aviv disc jockey. She did not choose him because "his answers were a catastrophe". Mr Shahadeh was later detained on suspicion of impersonation. Mr Shahadeh said he gave a false name fearing he would be rejected if it was known he was an Arab.

Panther prowls Rome

Rome - For the past week Rome police have been stalking a black panther north-east of the city (Paul Bonnard writes). They are following up sightings while local residents are keeping their children indoors after dark. First reports of the panther were not taken too seriously. But sightings have been made by two policemen. Earlier this week a police patrol found an escaped brown bear.

Japan demands say in shaping new world order

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Mr Toshiki Kaifu, Japan's Prime Minister, said yesterday that the world's newest superpower was no longer happy just to pay the bills, and wanted a say in how the world approaches the 21st century.

He also dismissed suggestions that he or Japan's long-governing Liberal Democratic Party would be removed in elections which will probably be held next month. He is starting an 11-day tour of Eastern and Western Europe in Bonn on Monday. He will lunch with Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, in London on Friday.

In an interview with *The Times* Mr Kaifu said: "Political reform cannot be successful without economic reform, so, of course, at first it is important that the countries in Eastern Europe become economically stronger to ensure that this trend towards greater freedom and democracy takes root firmly."

"Therefore, in the beginning we would be extending co-operation or assistance in that area. But we are aware that Japan today is being expected to take on a role as a major actor not only economically but

politically, both in the Asia-Pacific region and also as a member of the world's seven leading industrialized democracies.

"So, in partnership with the leaders of other Western countries we will play that role. I say this because the reforms in Eastern Europe today will not simply affect the situation there but will influence the world order in the 21st century. It goes without saying that we are going to have a contribution to make in the shaping of that new world order."

One reason Mr Kaifu protests so much is that, very often, it does not go without saying that Japan has thoughts to share on international affairs, especially in an area, like Eastern Europe, far from Japan's backyard. Although the Foreign Ministry is working hard to bring about a change, Tokyo's diplomacy moves slowly, and still flourishes best where Japan's economic interests can flourish too.

The Government is even having trouble persuading Japanese taxpayers that they should smile on Eastern Europe.

In the interview, Mr Kaifu, dressed like a Japanese businessman in dark suit and black slip-on shoes,

seemed keen to rebut criticisms that have been made about Tokyo's lack of diplomatic flair.

Sir Hugh Cortazzi, Britain's former ambassador to Japan, said recently that the Japanese were so myopic that they wanted to know only whether the upheaval in Eastern Europe would affect the timetable for the European Single Market in 1992. A former American Ambassador to Japan, Mr Edwin



Mr Kaifu: More internationally minded than most Japanese MPs.

Reischauer, has said: "Superpower status has always required a sense of mission that the Japanese lack."

Nearer home, *Yomiuri Shimbun*, a leading national daily, said in an editorial this week that it was "no longer permissible for Japan to practise 'merchant diplomacy' when historic changes are taking place in the world."

What is making life especially tricky for Mr Kaifu just now is that he is campaigning not only for Japan abroad, but for himself at home. He is amiable, eloquent, more internationally minded than most Japanese MPs, and sounds eager for Japan to muck in more with its allies. But he is hampered by the fact that he is on a leash that could snap after the coming elections. That makes his promises look fragile.

If Mr Kaifu has few enemies within Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party he also has few powerful friends. Plucked out of the shadows, he had greatness thrust upon him last August after Japan had lost two prime ministers in as many months to sex and bribery scandals. His blameless past attracted the party grandees looking for someone to keep the seat warm. Considering that most Japanese knew little more

about him than his fetish for polka-dot ties - he has 600 in his wardrobe - he has done well to rebuild the party's popularity.

But the Liberals will almost certainly suffer a setback in the elections.

The prospect of entering the history books as one of Japan's shortest-serving prime ministers has concentrated Mr Kaifu's mind.

He plans to take every televised opportunity on his European trip to hint to the voters back home that a vote for the opposition Socialists - who humiliated the Liberals in last July's elections for the Upper House - would seem bizarre to Japan's allies at a time when countries that have tasted real socialism are unshackling themselves.

"Many people seem to be suggesting that this upcoming election is going to be a very tough one for the Liberal Democratic Party," he said.

"But I don't think last year's election results will be repeated this time. Members of the LDP are working very hard right now, confident we will not lose our parliamentary majority. We're not thinking about forming a coalition or worrying about how well the opposition parties will fare."

Secessionist unrest

Kashmir valley under curfew

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

Kashmir valley, spinning out of control amid rising violence that even a cruel winter has not suppressed, has been placed under indefinite curfew.

Srinagar, the state capital, was silent yesterday save for the noise of armoured cars moving through the streets. Every other town in the valley is also under curfew.

The state government of Jammu and Kashmir said the move was in response to intelligence reports of trouble planned by "subversives", including mass rallies in front of the headquarters of the United Nations military observers in Srinagar.

The security crisis is worsening fast. Secessionists calling themselves Mujahideen now possess advanced weapons bought in the arms markets of Pakistan.

The state government,

headed by Mr Farooq Abdullah, the Chief Minister, is virtually defunct. Delhi is keeping open the option of dismissing the Administration and imposing direct rule, although it fears this might incite even worse violence.

Mr Abdullah and his team are widely disliked in Kashmir. In effect, he has been placed on probation by Delhi to see if he can get his Government back on its feet. He has shaken up his Cabinet and the bureaucracy and, desperate to regain control, ordered a security crackdown.

Curfews have been disrupting the valley for weeks, making life in the harsh winter even harder than normal. Deliveries of firewood, a primary source of heat, are frequently disrupted.

Power cuts are endemic, leaving the valley in pitch blackness at night. Local busi-

ness has all but collapsed and the tourist industry has virtually shut down.

Armed militancy is a new phenomenon in the Kashmir Valley, whose residents always had a reputation for being placid. Violence has been building up over the past two years and in recent months has reached a level that bears comparison with that in Punjab.

A dozen militant groups are involved, some demanding independence, others seeking unity with Pakistan.

On the orders of the militants, shops and bars throughout the valley will instantly close.

An order to boycott last November's elections was completely obeyed. At many polling stations, not one voter turned up. In the Srinagar constituency nobody even filed a nomination paper.

Thatcher urged to protect Hong Kong democracy

By Michael Knipe, Diplomatic Correspondent

The chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association, Mr Robert Tang, has written to Mrs Thatcher urging her not to allow Peking to slow down the development of democracy in Hong Kong.

At a time when the world was celebrating Europe's new found freedom, Mr Tang said, it was vital that Britain should act decisively over the development of representative government in Hong Kong.

His letter was prompted by China's stance at last month's round of the Anglo-Chinese talks on the transfer of sovereignty in 1997 at which the Peking Government is understood to have disclosed that it was prepared to have only 18 per cent of legislative council seats directly elected by 1997. Hong Kong's legislative and executive councils have reached a consensus favouring a democratization process

that would see one-third of seats directly elected by 1991, half by 1995 and all seats by 2003. This model is known as the Omeleo Consensus.

"Although we regard the pace of democratization indicated in the Omeleo Consensus to be slow, it is the most acceptable of the models now available," Mr Tang said in his letter. "We therefore urge the British Government to adopt a model no less democratic than the Omeleo Consensus without further delay."

The nationality package announced last month by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, under which about 225,000 Hong Kong Chinese will be granted full British citizenship, was evidence of the British Government's determination to re-establish confidence in Hong Kong, Mr Tang said. But the effect of

this limited package would be reduced substantially if the British Government did not allow democracy to develop at a pace which was acceptable to the people of Hong Kong.

He urged the Government not to allow the development of representative government in Hong Kong to be stymied by the Basic Law, which Peking is drafting as the territory's post-1997 constitution.

It was likely, Mr Tang said, that the Omeleo Consensus would not converge with the Basic Law model, and from what had become known of the Basic Law model it would not be acceptable in Hong Kong.

"We do not believe China will be immune to the reforms which are taking shape in Eastern Europe," Mr Tang said. "We believe reform will come to China before 1997."

Sleuths sniff out truffle-faking ring

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

Mon Dieu! Is nothing sacred any longer in the home of the gourmet? Hard on the heels of disturbing reports about quantities of adulterated *foie gras* circulating freely over here, all people of taste and discrimination in France are reeling at the news that there is also a thriving market in the counterfeits of truffles.

Some high-grade sleuthing by police in Agen has uncovered the existence of a ring smuggling in supplies of lowly white truffles from Italy and passing them off, after judicious application of walnut dye, as the infinitely more expensive and sought after

black variety from France. With prices for this noble fungus currently running at around 400 francs (about £40) a kilo in France, the gang is believed to have been turning a tidy profit of several hundred per cent on each consignment.

Ironically, it was the unusually heavy demand for walnut dye in the Agen region that first alerted the police to this alarming practice.

By coincidence, it seems that the operation was being run by an enterprising band of *foie gras* makers who were in the habit of mixing in the transformed truffles with their more superior lines. The first

arrests are expected any day now.

It is, of course, an article of faith among those French who can afford the odd kilo of the most expensive of culinary delights that they can practically tell under which tree in Perigord it was snuffed up by a treasured sow.

By the law of averages - or so one hopes - they will already have sampled one of the phoney consignments, perhaps exclaiming aloud in delight at the truly exceptional quality of this year's offerings. Last year, after all, they were happy to swallow many a litre of chateau-bottled Ber-

deaux whose true origin lay closer to Bergerac.

The question arises, too, whether any of the bogus truffles have been passed on, with the normal, frightful mark-up, by the grander type of restaurants which normally account for a large proportion of purchases.

Perish the thought that any of France's haughty master chefs were taken in by the dye.

Perish the even unworthier thought that some grand restaurants may have concluded that their average customer, perhaps eager to impress with their wallet, would not instantly spot the difference.

Illegal workers caned in Singapore

From M.G.G. Pillai, Singapore

The Singapore Government has started to cane foreign workers who infringe its tough immigration laws.

On Boxing Day, three Indians were caned three times each. Diplomatic sources said yesterday that they were not the first.

Since the canings began early last month, more than 20 men - Indians, Filipinos, Indonesians, Thais and Burmese - have been chastised with a rattan cane, soaked overnight in brine, at the Kaki Bukit prison. Their crime was to overstay their visas by more than 90 days.

Those convicted must also

serve prison sentences, probably of three months, before being expelled.

The embassies representing those involved are seeking more information. So far there has been no outward reaction in Singapore itself, and the government-controlled media have yet to report the canings.

When the law was passed last April, the ensuing furore forced the Government to amend it to provide for employers of illegal workers to be caned as well. The Government rarely backs down, and the canings are likely to continue. But the caning policy, at a time when a labour shortage

has slowed down industry, will cause disruption. The country's much vaunted ship-repairing industry is still reeling from the departure of thousands of Indian workers.

The captain of a Norwegian-registered ship found that the upgrading and refitting of his vessel, which normally took about 10 days, had not been completed after 59 days. That is no isolated example.

Singapore hopes that workers from Hong Kong will fill the gaps. About 6,000 are on the island already, the advance guard of those the Singapore Government hopes to attract with special privi-

leges, incentives and legal guarantees as the 1997 deadline for Hong Kong's reversion to Chinese rule nears.

Non-Chinese foreign labour is discouraged, part of an official attempt to alter the multicultural character of Singapore into an ethnically Chinese-based society.

Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister, believes that the island's growth would have been more spectacular if it were not a multicultural society.

The official policy is to rely less and less on non-Chinese workers and try to alter Singapore's racial balance.

East Berlin is accused of anti-Nazi scare tactics

From Anne McElroy
East Berlin

East Germany's opposition groups yesterday accused the communist party of exploiting fears of a Nazi revival to aid its chances in the May elections.

Their reproach is the opening opposition attack on the reformed party in what looks like becoming a heated contest for power dominated by the German question.

On Thursday, six leading reform groups forged an electoral pact in an attempt to oust the communists.

Herr Konrad Weiss, a sociologist and spokesman for the Democracy Now group, said that the communist party was using its dominance of the media and of state offices to whip up an atmosphere of fear. New Forum joined in the criticism, speaking of "a deliberate campaign to arouse fear and ensure election".

With its political credibility at an all-time ebb, the communist party has

avidly mounted an anti-fascist platform for the first stages of the electoral campaign.

The main newspapers, still run by the party, have been full of reports of neo-Nazi activities and the Ministry of the Interior announced this week that there were 1,600 known neo-Nazis in the country. Parliament will next week decide how to tackle neo-Nazism and intends to set up a commission to protect the country's anti-fascist Constitution.

Opposition groups fear the campaign will provide the Government an excuse to restore the hated state security force, abolished after public outcry at the end of last year.

The Government has said it will not re-create the Stasi but still intends to set up an information agency to control the activities of right-wing groups in the country.

The West German Government said yesterday that the opposition in East Germany was not being fairly repre-

sented in the East German media and called on the Government to ensure fair reporting in the run-up to the general election.

It added its voice to a chorus of criticism from East German opposition groups and West German politicians.

Warsaw (Reuters) — Poland, following East Germany's example, will reduce compulsory army service from two years to 18 months this year. Mr Marian Siwicki, the Defence Minister, said in a statement published in *Rzeczpospolita* yesterday. Total manpower, reduced last year, would be cut by another 10,000 in 1990 to about 300,000, he said, and 450 tanks, 200 guns and 100 armoured vehicles would be scrapped.

accusing the Communists of using their control of key offices and the media to ensure they are not defeated in the elections next May.

Herr Norbert Schäfer, the deputy

Government Speaker, said in Bonn that it was the task of the East German Government to ensure that the opposition had "the freedom to compete on equal terms".

He told a news conference: "According to our observations, this does not exist at the moment. The West German Government is also concerned about the things that the opposition there is complaining about."

The opposition says it is also denied equal access to office space, typewriters and printing equipment.

Herr Schäfer said if the situation did not change Bonn would raise the issue with Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, when he visits West Germany this month or next for talks with Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

Herr Hans-Joachim Heusinger, the East German Justice Minister, was sacked yesterday after widespread criticism that he had failed to act quickly to

investigate corruption charges against members of the former Government. Herr Modrow said in a brief statement that he was responding to pressure from the Parliament in removing Herr Heusinger, whom he replaced with Herr Kurt Wansow, a fellow Liberal Democrat.

● BONN: A row has built up over the charge by an East German opposition leader — which Bonn flatly denies — that Herr Kohl is endangering hopes for democracy by contacts with the communists (Reuters reports).

Herr Weiss, of the East's Democracy Now, said Herr Kohl had ignored the fledgling opposition and had started to negotiate away the future of East Germany with a corrupt party.

In a letter to the Chancellor he wrote: "In official meetings and in the media, you have clearly favoured the communists and their representatives while neglecting opposition movements."

"It's true you also received repre-

sentatives of the opposition in Dresden. But you were not really prepared to take criticism or hear what we had to say. Instead you lectured us with your own vision of East Germany."

Herr Kohl discussed the future of the two Germanies with Herr Modrow in Dresden two weeks ago in his first meeting with the reformist leadership that took over from Herr Erich Honecker, the hardline ruler.

Herr Weiss accused Herr Kohl of pushing East Berlin towards reunification with Bonn despite opposition from most East German parties.

Rejecting the charges, Herr Schäfer — speaking for Bonn — said government contacts between the two states "serve the interests of the people and not those of the (Socialist Unity) party".

Herr Schäfer said the Chancellor would sign preliminary agreements with East Germany on providing urgent help for its people, but only on condition free elections were held.

Protest in Bulgaria

General strike on rights for Turks closes down country

Sofia (Reuters) — A general strike by Bulgarians opposed to religious freedom for ethnic Turks closed shops and factories and brought transport to a standstill in several towns yesterday.

Sofia radio said all shops and factories were closed in the southern town of Kurdzhali, where protests began five days ago. Only milk and bread factories and hospitals remained open.

The strike began as a token two-hour stoppage. It spread to the nearby town of Haskovo, which, like Kurd-

hundred of the estimated 10,000 Bulgarians who took part in Thursday's protest remained outside the National Assembly building all night in freezing temperatures.

Many of them said they had started a hunger strike and vowed to stay outside Parliament until the Government agreed to a referendum on the fate of the ethnic Turks.

About 3,000 Turks demonstrated in Kurdzhali, whose population of 60,000 is divided between the two communities, shouting "We are Bulgarians".

Under former leader Mr Todor Zhivkov, overthrown in November after 35 years in power, Turks were forced to assume Bulgarian names and banned from practising their religion.

An estimated 300,000 ethnic Turks fled to Turkey last year after several people were reported to have been killed by police during peaceful protests for Muslim rights.

The new communist leadership of Mr Petur Mladenov, worried at the harm to Bulgaria's image abroad, decided last month to restore full rights to the ethnic Turks, including the right to take Muslim names and practise their religion.

The decision prompted protests by Bulgarian communities in predominantly Turkish provinces who feared their culture would be wiped out by the Turks.

While the protest has now assumed racist undertones, there are also economic implications for the Bulgarians, many of whom have bought the houses and taken the jobs of Turks who fled to Turkey.

The protesters have handed a petition to the Communist Party demanding that any ethnic Turk who adopts a Muslim name be handed travel documents and cash and sent to Turkey.

Pact obsolete

Sofia (Reuters) — The Soviet-led trading group, Comecon, is obsolete and should be restructured to reflect changes in Eastern Europe, a Soviet official said. Mr Sergei Oganov, a member of the advance Soviet delegation to next week's Comecon meeting in Bulgaria told a news conference the organisation's 10 member countries agreed on the need to restructure. Comecon had accomplished much "but ran into negative tendencies in the 1970s," Mr Oganov said.

Leading article, page 11

zhali, has a large Turkish population, as well as Stara Zagora and Debriza, site of the country's largest chemical plant. Strikes were also reported in several towns in the northeast including Targovishte, Sumen and the Black Sea resort of Varna.

Thousands of Bulgarian protesters from two predominantly Turkish-populated regions massed in Sofia on Thursday, threatening a nationwide general strike unless the communist leadership reversed a decision to restore civil rights to the country's 1.5 million ethnic Turks. Several

Berliners swarm to their first January sales



Bargains abound for East Berlin shoppers yesterday after the authorities gave the go-ahead for East Germany's first ever winter sale yesterday.

West Germany becomes top haven for refugees

From Ian Murray
Bonn

West Germany's booming economy and the upheavals in Eastern Europe are jointly turning it into one of the world's main sanctuaries. According to figures released yesterday, 842,227 refugees arrived in the country last year.

Of these, 720,909 were ethnic Germans who are automatically entitled to citizenship and residence. The remaining 121,318 were asylum seekers from all over the world, although nearly half came from Eastern Europe.

The total figure is significantly up on 1988, but even then there were 345,581 arrivals, of whom 242,505 were immediately granted citizenship. In the past two years

alone, therefore, West Germany will have given a home to a million refugees — and about 1,500 are still arriving daily.

The opening of the Hungarian border to Austria on September 11 and the breaching two months later of the Berlin Wall and the border with East Germany meant that the steadily increasing flow of people from there rapidly turned into a flood.

Some 60,000, mostly elderly, East Germans had left their country by the end of August. Since then, more than 280,000 others, mostly young, have left — an increase on 1988 of some 261 per cent.

Even so, the total of 343,854 East German refugees is still below the 377,055 ethnic Germans who arrived from elsewhere and this alone repre-

sented an 86 per cent increase on the previous year.

The fact that 250,340 of these arrived from Poland, many of them unable to speak German, shows that the low standard of living is persuading many of the German community to leave for a better life. It also means that the proportion of people with German ancestry in modern Poland is decreasing, so making the right-wing argument for regarding it as part of Germany less relevant.

The largest number, after Poland, came from the Soviet Union (98,134) — over twice as many as in the previous year as was the case with the 23,387 refugees from Romania. The remainder came largely from Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia.

There was also an 80 per

cent increase of non-German asylum seekers compared with two years ago, and the total was 18 per cent up on 1988. At the same time, the proportion granted refugee status fell from 8.6 per cent in 1988 to 5 per cent last year. Most came from Poland (24,092), Turkey (20,020), Yugoslavia (19,423), Sri Lanka (7,758), Lebanon (6,240) and Iran (5,768).

Although a very high proportion are refused political refugee status, it can, with all the appeal processes, take many months before an individual has to leave. Even if turned down, those who come from Lebanon, Iran, Sri Lanka or Afghanistan are allowed to stay because of the danger they may face if they return home.

The influx of refugees increases the danger of an

extreme right-wing reaction, and support for the Republican Party, but most West Germans continue to be proud of their ability to absorb the new citizens. They point out that the country absorbed 12 million refugees after the Second World War, and that this was a big factor in the first German economic miracle, and the Government says the new arrivals will ultimately bring financial benefits.

Since the birthrate of the indigenous population, at 10.3 per thousand, is the lowest in the world, there have been fears that the social services and even the economy could collapse, with an ever-decreasing workforce having to look after an aging population. The youth of the new refugees should go some way towards solving this problem.

Defence cuts urged on Bonn

From Ian Murray
Bonn

The West German opposition Social Democrats (SPD) called on the Government yesterday to make "drastic" cuts in West Germany's defence budget and to use the savings on helping to develop East Germany.

Franz Ingrid Matthäus-Maier, speaking for the SPD's members in the Bundestag, said that the Defence budget for 1990, which totals a record DM54 billion (£20 billion) was "a gross contradiction" of the historic developments in East Germany and the other Warsaw Pact countries. Freedom and democracy in these countries made peace safer and safer than raising defence spending to record levels, she said.

At the same time East Germany's decision to cut national service from 18 months to a year has given fresh ammunition to the SPD, who want a similar reduction along with a more liberal regime for West Germany's conscripts.

After the announcement from East Berlin, the Free Democrats (FDP), junior partners in the Government coalition, have also come out in favour of a year's service instead of the present 15 months.

The East Germans say that the reduction, along with permission for conscientious objectors to be allowed to do community service instead, will mean a reduction of the forces abroad their present levels of around 180,000 to 150,000 over the next two years.

Even so they claim they will be able to fulfil their Warsaw Pact commitments, given that at the moment some 50,000 men are being used to run transport, supply services, health service needs, industry and to dismantle obsolete tanks.

The West German lobby insists that it will be equally possible for Nato commitments to be met if national service is cut.

Police accused of bugging opposition groups

Budapest (Reuters) — Hungarian opposition groups yesterday accused police of bugging and monitoring non-communist parties in what they dubbed the country's Watergate scandal.

The Alliance of Free Democrats and the Fidesz youth group made the charge at a news conference held at a cinema. They screened video film of what they said were secret Interior Ministry reports on their activities and other opposition parties.

They demanded an end to the surveillance and said that Mr Istvan Horvath, the Interior Minister, and Mr Ferenc Pallagi, the head of the State Security Service, should be sacked. But they stopped short of demanding the resignation of Mr Miklos Nemeth, the reformist com-

munist Prime Minister, saying the country badly needed stability before free elections next March.

"We have proof that the so-called internal defence department of the State Security Service was collecting information until today on non-communist organizations," the two groups said in a letter to Mr Nemeth.

They likened the affair to the Watergate scandal, in which President Nixon was forced to resign over the burglary and bugging of rival Democratic Party offices in the Watergate office building in Washington.

They distributed copies of a protest they had filed with the country's chief prosecutor, complaining about what they called anti-constitutional and illegal prac-

tices. They urged Mr Nemeth to distance his Government from the surveillance, reveal who received the alleged intelligence information, sack Mr Horvath and Mr Pallagi, reorganize the security service, investigate the political police and

Belgrade (AFP) — The Orthodox Christmas mass, to be celebrated tomorrow, will be shown on television for the first time in the history of socialist Yugoslavia, the church announced yesterday. About 42 per cent of Yugoslavs belong to the Orthodox church.

seal the secret archives. Mr Laszlo Kovér, the Fidesz leader, said that Mr Nemeth probably knew about the bugging. "But if he said he did not know about it, I would accept

his argument because this would serve the interests of the country," he said. "I think we cannot trust the present government but a government crisis would not serve the country's interests before the elections. Interior and Defence Ministry spokesmen were not available for comment."

● JOHANNESBURG: South Africa and Hungary are still some distance from establishing formal diplomatic relations, Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, said here yesterday on his return from talks in Budapest with his Hungarian counterpart, Mr Gyula Horn (Ray Kennedy writes).

He said they had agreed to begin looking into the state of their relationships and what phases should formally begin, these in-

cluded possible "interest offices, and eventually embassies."

But this, he added, "will depend on what happens in South Africa and Hungary over the next few months". The term "diplomatic relations" was difficult to fit into the "old styles or categories of diplomatic relations," Mr Botha said. "Nowadays there is informal forms of relations made possible through communication technology."

Nevertheless, his visit to Budapest is being viewed in South African government circles as a diplomatic coup and has enraged the African National Congress and anti-apartheid groups. The ANC has described Hungary's reception of Mr Botha as demonstrating cynical disregard for international agreements.

EC poll support for reunification

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

Almost four in every five people in the European Community support the reunification of Germany, and British readiness to accept a unified Germany in the EC is higher than even that of the Germans, according to the latest poll of community opinion.

The poll, commissioned by Brussels and carried out in all 12 member states, found that 82 per cent of those questioned in Britain supported a reunited Germany as a member of the EC, compared with 78 per cent — the EC average — in West Germany itself. Support also ran high in France, Italy, Greece, Portugal and Spain.

It was lowest in Denmark, but there was still a majority of 59 per cent in favour.

The poll also found that fears of West Germany being lured east and turning its back on the community were unfounded. The total of 78 per cent West Germans favouring reunification dropped to only 18 per cent if leaving the community were to be imposed as a condition, less than one West German in five was prepared to sacrifice EC membership for unity.

The poll was published in *Eurobarometer*, a regular analysis of EC opinion published by the European Commission about three or four times a year. The questionnaire, compiled in October and November before the most dramatic changes in Eastern Europe,

also found strong support, especially in Britain, for the call by Mr Jacques Delors, president of the Commission, to speed up integration of the community to meet the challenge of East Europe.

A majority in each country favoured swifter economic, political and monetary integration, with 72 per cent in favour in Britain, despite Mrs Thatcher's opposition to such a course. Support for the Delors response was higher in Britain than in more traditionally integrationist member states, such as Belgium, West Germany, Luxembourg and The Netherlands.

Urgent food aid for Poland won wide support, and 78 per cent also welcomed a common EC policy of coming closer to Eastern Europe. Some 86 per cent urged the EC to take joint action to help East European reforms.

President Gorbachev was the most popular politician among EC voters, while Mrs Thatcher was way down the list, below President Mitterrand, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and M Delors.

Some 66 per cent of those asked said they would like to see the Soviet leader play a more important role in Europe. M Mitterrand won 64 per cent, Herr Kohl 55 per cent and M Delors 49 per cent. Support for Mrs Thatcher was 45 per cent, below that for Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, Schor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister.

Solzhenitsyn goes back to the roots of Russian language

By Daniel Treisman

The Russian language, under threat from foreign neologisms and Soviet bureaucratic jargon, will this year receive support from no less a paragon than Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the emigre writer, who is to publish a specialized glossary in the Soviet Union of ancient words and rare dialect.

It will hear from those who know of Napoleon's invasion when they hear words like *koshmar* and *marshroute* (nightmare and highway), or turn queasy at the capitalist echoes of *biznessmen* and *menedzher*.

The glossary, to be published in monthly instalments in the Soviet review *Russian Speech*, will also be welcomed

by patriotic writers appalled by the inelegant, politicized vocabulary of the Soviet era. Its reception in reformist circles, less overjoyed by Solzhenitsyn's looming conservative presence, is perhaps less certain. From his American exile in Vermont, the writer has not always looked with favour on the Westernizing tenor of President Gorbachev's *perestroika*.

Collecting rare and archaic words has been a pastime of the writer during his years in Vermont, according to Mr Nikita Struve, his Paris publisher.

"The Russian language is his element, his substance in life. It is natural for an exiled writer. He is extremely joyful when he hears a new word or

one he didn't know," Mr Struve said yesterday. "Sometimes when I was lunching with him, he spoke about various words. We tried to find a Russian way to say 'week-end'. There is none."

Russians, in fact, spend tedious workdays dreaming of the weekend. The inspiration for the dictionary came while Solzhenitsyn was working on his massive historical epic *The Red Wheel* and saw his youngest son, Stepan, typing. Mr Struve said, "It was a way to bring his Russian son close to the language."

Periodically, other writers have voiced concern about the fate of the Russian language under Soviet rule. In the late 1960s, Konstantin Paustovsky

claimed in an article in *Literaturnaya Gazeta* that the language was degenerating into bureaucratic slang. As recently as last July, an article in *Literaturnaya Rossiya* urged the Supreme Soviet to pass laws of linguistic defence.

Under *perestroika*, some conservatives have taken aim at such foreign imports as *demokratizatsia* and *demokratizm* — words which sounded eerily undefined when Mr Gorbachev took them up three years ago.

It is a debate in which linguistics is rarely far from politics. Traditionalist writers, some of whom have doubts about *perestroika*, have no affection for Western popular culture. *Rok* and *narkotiki* are viewed as dangerous imports;

the leading Siberian novelist Valentin Rasputin has even claimed that rock music damages listeners' haemoglobin.

Solzhenitsyn's aim is to emphasize opportunities for innovation in the Russian language itself. "Russian, with its suffixes and prefixes, is still a living language, where it is possible to create new words," rather than importing them, Mr Struve said. "Solzhenitsyn's works are testimony to its regenerating power."

Solzhenitsyn has said he will not consider revisiting the Soviet Union until all his books have been published there. That date may be approaching, as plans are under way to publish all his works in the next two years.



Mr Solzhenitsyn: New life for ancient Russian words.

THE ROMANIAN REVOLUTION

Magyar party to contest April poll

From Michael Hornaby
Bucharest

Romania's Hungarian minority yesterday joined the slowly increasing number of political groups emerging from the shadows and repression of the Ceausescu era to announce their intention to contest the free elections scheduled for April.

At least four other political groups, two of them parties pre-dating the Communist takeover in 1947 and two new groups, are in the process of registering for the elections. Other new groups spring up almost daily, some of them disappearing just as fast.

The situation is complicated by the fact that the National Salvation Front, the loose alliance of intellectuals, military men, and reform Communists now running the country, has also said that it intends to put up candidates in the elections although it does not regard itself as a political party as such.

In addition, some of the new political groups either are, or say they intend to apply to become, members of the Front, which, in turn, is drafting the election law and will supervise the conduct of the elections, raising some doubt about how much genuine competition there will be.

The Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania, which was launched yesterday, is likely to provide the main political vehicle for the estimated two million ethnic Hungarians in the country's total population of 23 million. Ninety per cent of Hungarian speakers live in the Transylvania region in the west of the country.

An ethnic Hungarian writer, Mr Geza Domokos, provisional president of the Union, which is a member of the Front, said the new organization would "represent and defend" the political, cultural, and economic rights of the Hungarian-speaking population, and would seek constitutional guarantees for their adequate representation in state institutions.

Another spokesman for the organization, Mr Andor Horvath, a journalist and writer, said: "We want our

Elena's panic

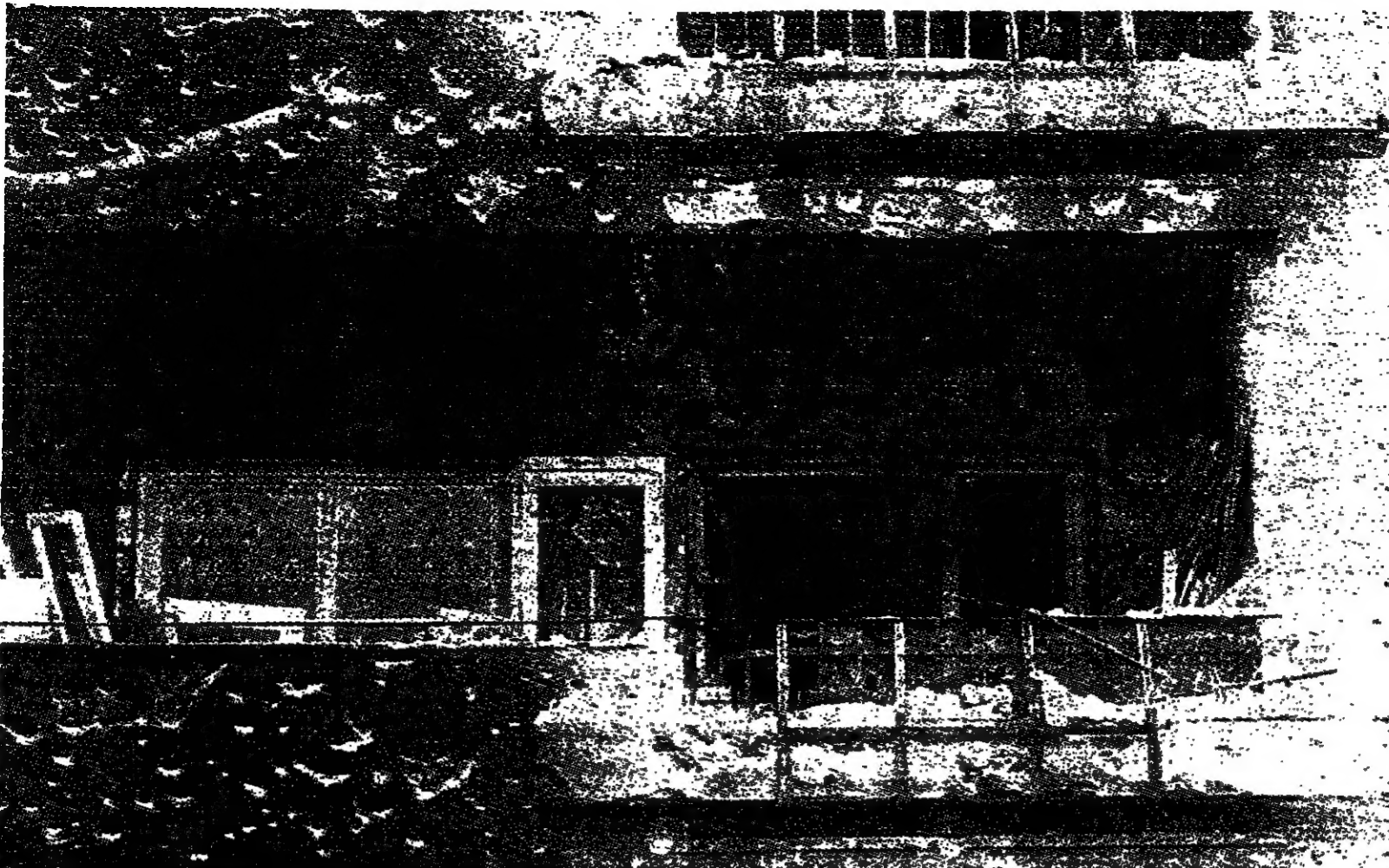
Tirgoviste, Romania (Reuter) — A panic-stricken Elena Ceausescu struggled to get free when she realized she was about to die before a firing squad, an army captain who saw the execution has said. She turned to her husband as they were put before the firing squad and said: "Nicolae, they are going to shoot us," the captain said.

children to have full rights to be taught in their own language, and we want the restoration of a Hungarian-speaking university and separate Hungarian channels on radio and television."

Under Ceausescu, the Hungarian population suffered severe discrimination. The ousted dictator's plan to raze thousands of villages and resettle their inhabitants in "agro-industrial centres", was in part designed to crush the ancient Magyar identity of many parts of Transylvania.

It was security police harassment of a Protestant pastor and civil rights activist of Hungarian origin, the Rev Laszlo Tokes, last month in the western city of Timisoara that set off demonstrations and counter action by the security forces, culminating in the defection of the Army and Ceausescu's overthrow.

Romania is a country of great ethnic diversity. In addition to the Hungarian-speaking population, there are 250,000 ethnic Germans, as well as Czechs, Jews, Armenians, Turks, and gypsies. Previously muted by Stalinist oppression, ethnic nationalism is likely to be a large feature of political life in the new Romania.



Workmen making repairs to the shell-marked facade of a villa which was damaged during the fighting near the Romanian television building in Bucharest.

Britons slow to forge trade links

By Michael Knipe, Diplomatic Correspondent

British industrialists and businessmen are lagging behind their Japanese and European competitors in taking advantage of the revolution in Romania to forge new trade contacts, according to Romanian and British observers.

"Bucharest is swarming with Japanese and German executives sizing up the needs and requirements of the Romanians," said Mr Peter Tweedy, a British accountant married to a Romanian who arrived back from Bucharest this week after spending Christmas delivering emergency medical supplies.

His observation is supported by diplomatic observers and economic analysts who say businessmen in West Germany and Japan have been quicker off the mark in seeking new opportunities. They have also taken a longer-term view of trading patterns, sometimes cultivating unprofitable areas for years before they begin to pay off.

Mrs Iolanda Stranescu, president of the British-Romanian Association, said there was an urgent need for a wide-range of investment packages and she feared that British companies were not reacting quickly enough to the

possibilities. With the revolution less than three weeks old, the problem of establishing Romania's long-term requirements remain considerable.

The European Community had virtually broken off diplomatic and economic relations with Romania before the revolution and abandoned technical co-operation. But if political reforms are pursued, the Community is expected to extend the same degree of economic assistance as it does to Poland and Hungary.

An aid assessment team, put together by France as almost the last act of its six-month presidency of the EC, returned earlier this week after spending three days in Bucharest in an attempt to discover Romania's needs beyond emergency aid. The group, however, found the political situation too chaotic to make much headway.

Mr Charles Grey, assistant head of the East European department at the Foreign Office, who was the British representative, said that Romanian Trade officials had requested fertilizer, pesticides, seeds and agricultural equipment, but they were unable to be precise in their requests.

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Hain investigation

Johannesburg (Reuter) — The South African authorities are investigating the alleged illegal entry into the country of Mr Peter Hain, the British anti-apartheid activist who is a fervent campaigner against this month's tour by England cricket rebels. A spokesman for the Department of Home Affairs said Mr Hain was believed to have entered South Africa last month under a false name and without a work permit.

Gunman ails

Paris (Reuter) — M Pierre Arpaillange, the Minister of Justice, has acknowledged that Anis Naccache, the jailed pro-Iranian gunman whose fate is clouding relations between Tehran and Paris, is in poor health after refusing food for nearly four months.

Newsman out

Ankara (Reuter) — Turkey has told Christopher Wildie, a resident British journalist and Jehovah's Witness who works for a local English-language journal, to leave the country immediately.

50 die in crash

Kampala (Reuter) — At least 50 people were killed and several badly hurt in Uganda's worst road crash, a head-on collision between a bus and a truck near the capital.

Rebel claim

Nairobi (Reuter) — Rebels in western Ethiopia claim they killed 957 government troops, wounded 200 and captured 117 others in heavy fighting early this week.

Rabuka goes

Suva (Reuter) — Fiji has returned to purely civilian rule after Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka, who led two military coups in 1987, fulfilled his promise to resign as Home Affairs Minister in the interim Government he installed.

Marcos cash

Zurich (Reuter) — A judge has awarded 400 million Swiss francs (about £160 million), hidden here by the late Ferdinand Marcos, former President of the Philippines, to that country's Government.

Oil-slick aid

Nicosia (Reuter) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has given £30 million to Morocco to help clear the huge oil slick caused when the Iranian supertanker Kharg-5 was crippled by fire and explosions.

Deadly deal

Hong Kong (Reuter) — A court in the southern Chinese town of Quanzhou has sentenced a man to death for producing calendars and playing-cards showing naked women.

CAPITAL BONDS

NATIONAL SAVINGS

What strikes one about Algiers is the smell of cats. Cats everywhere. Cats in the alleys, as you climb the steps from the harbour; cats in the avenues, promenading in the sun; cats in the corridors of the posh hotels. The sleekest of vagabonds, they belong to no one. Accepted with a shrug, they prosper and multiply.

It was a fine holiday. On Boxing Day my parents and I were welcomed at Algiers airport by a friend - Walid - from the embassy of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic.

Britain has yet to recognize the SADR, though we know their position. We know the standards of a cynical age. It was an outrage for General Franco to sell a whole country to the King of Morocco. For many years the people of the Western Sahara have been fighting to recover their territory; and they appre-



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NO, SIR HUMPHREY

The Association of First Division Civil Servants belongs, in Bagehot's terms, more to the dignified than the efficient part of the Constitution. Even after its recent marriage with the more rough-and-tumble types of the Association of Inspectors of Taxes, the FDA remains a band of gentlemen (and that despite its being led by some formidable Whitehall women). Against that background, its snubbing of the Cabinet Office over the wording of a new code of conduct for Civil Servants looks like the higher grades in Whitehall doing what they are notoriously good at: splitting hairs on a precise point of drafting. To the lay public the difference between "most" and "all" in a clause is not the stuff of which industrial disputes are made, and that common sense response is correct.

The lines of argument are these. The Government, in the person of the former Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, consistently said that a consequence of its reform of official secrets was some encoding of disciplinary procedures for Civil Servants who broke the rules governing the unauthorized release of official information. A Civil Servant in a domestic ministry like, say, the Department of Education who leaked will, after the implementation of the Official Secrets Act 1989, no longer be subject to criminal prosecution. The issue between the Cabinet Office and the FDA is whether the disciplinary code under which that official would be charged by his superiors should reflect existing administrative practice or some new ideal relationship within the executive branch of government.

The Government, with justification, says all it is doing is encoding existing practice. That includes what passes as Whitehall doctrine on such issues as confidentiality, and the broad obligations of officials to their ministers. Unusually, in a culture which lives by words of mouth and empirical precedent much more than by written doctrine, these obligations were set down by the former head of the civil service, Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, in

formal memoranda he published in the wake of the unsuccessful prosecution of Clive Ponting. His successor has subjected them to no revision. The Armstrong memoranda — on the second of which the FDA was consulted — were, more or less, a distillation of contemporary constitutional wisdom.

They said Civil Servants may be dignified as servants of that mystical entity, the Crown, but for all practical purposes that meant servants of the ministers of the day. The FDA's preferred wording of the new code is: for most practical purposes. Now is that a constitutional hiatus or a somewhat precious difference of vocabulary?

The answer must be that the Government is right because it has been consistent; it ought to resist what looks like a piece of opportunism by the FDA. If there were to be objections to the doctrine, surely the time to make them would have been when it was set out in black and white by Lord Armstrong, or better, at some earlier stage when it became part of constitutional practice. The FDA, which has asked for a meeting with Sir Robin Butler, is in effect asking him to repudiate his predecessor without — as yet — having advanced any cogent reasons why the status quo should be subverted. There remains a suspicion that the union wants to leave the door open for a future Clive Ponting by granting, in advance, immunity for breaches of confidentiality (provided they are generated by good — that is to say, bad — conscience).

There was — is — much that was unsatisfactory about the Armstrong doctrine. It did not get to grips with the administrative consequences of the tide of managerial reform running through the service of the State. There was — is — a debate to be had about the operation of our strong executive-in-Parliament, within the Constitution. However, a drafting amendment to a code of conduct which does not in any material sense alter the terms on which Civil Servants are employed is not an opportune occasion to tread that turf.

FINGER IN THE DIKE

In the maelstrom of political and economic change that has engulfed what used to be called the Soviet bloc, what future for Comecon, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance? Scarcely more than two years ago, in the book he published about *perestroika*, Mr Gorbachev wrote of his hope that the process of integration would be accelerated. That already reads like a history of ancient times. This week, on a visit to Poland, the new Czechoslovak Finance Minister, Mr Václav Klaus, said that the communist trading bloc was a dead letter.

Comecon, the brainchild of the Soviet Union, was established in 1949, ostensibly as a riposte to the Marshall Plan. Its declared aims were "to promote the national economies of the member states and the development of socialist economic integration", but in the early Stalinist period of its existence it was used, together with Soviet war reparations, to assist in the reconstruction of the Soviet Union. By the early eighties, however, the evidence was that its involvement in Comecon constituted a serious drain on Soviet resources.

Constitutionally, the Session of the Council, the organization's supreme body, enjoys no supranational powers, and the founding documents talked about the equal rights of all member states. It was an attempt in the 1960s by Mr Khrushchev to set up a central policy authority which gave an early boost to Mr Ceausescu's reputation in the West as a plucky little chap prepared to stand up to pressure from Moscow.

Since its inception, there are a number of ways in which the organization has stood in its own light. It could not be a customs union — if foreign trade was controlled by state directive rather than by import duties, tariff reduction had no meaning. Nor could it achieve much in the way of specialization within a large multinational market — relative utility could not be measured, because there was no price mechanism.

In the seventies there were several attempts to negotiate a trade agreement with the

European Community. The Brussels view, however, was that the Eastern bloc did not have the legal powers to conclude agreements with the EEC. The Comecon delegation was sent away with a flea in its ear, and the question of closer links surfaced again only in 1985.

The Czechs are not alone in questioning the future of the organization. The retreat from central planning in Eastern Europe and the attempt to move towards a market economy have made Comecon seem increasingly irrelevant to the concerns of its members. The Polish Government said this week that its structures had become "ossified".

Clearly, then, the discussions at next week's Comecon meeting in Sofia will be spirited. The Czech finance minister stopped short this week of calling for its dissolution, but he made it plain that if his proposals for a radical overhaul were not accepted, Czechoslovakia was prepared to withdraw unilaterally from its commitments.

Mr Klaus is a professional economist. His views did not find favour during the seventies, and he found himself working as a clerk in a bank. His aim now is to see most of the Eastern bloc's economic activities conducted bilaterally between the individual member countries.

The Czechs and their Polish allies can have few illusions about what they are taking on. The OECD has told Poland that its plans to put its trade with its neighbours on a hard currency basis may create difficulties, and that currency convertibility and the setting of a realistic exchange rate for the zloty may at first have a destabilizing effect.

There was an indication of the Soviet position in an interview this week with Comecon's president, Mr Andrei Lukonov. He wanted, he said, to see "a unified market of the socialist countries", although he conceded that might take 10 or 15 years. It is doubtful whether he can keep his thumb in the dike for that long.

CHANGING TIMES

Opposition is gathering momentum north of the border to Government plans to abandon Greenwich Mean Time. Scottish reaction to the idea is understandable, but it should not stop Whitehall from pushing forward — in more ways than one.

Proposals to change the time zone that we live in are not new. In the late 1960s the Wilson Government introduced a three-year experiment with British Standard Time which was, in effect, British Summer Time throughout the year. That ended after a free vote in the Commons, amid fierce controversy up and down the country.

The debate has been revived mainly because of British entry into Europe, and the approach of the Single Market has now given it fresh impetus. While a one-hour time shift between Britain and the Continent is not an insuperable obstacle to progress, the advantages of harmonization are obvious. The proposal this time is to put the clocks forward by one hour in the winter, then by a second hour in the summer, thus bringing us into line with most of Europe. The only other countries on GMT are Portugal and the Irish Republic, while Greece is one hour ahead of everyone else.

Support for such a move was never likely to be unanimous. While it means lighter evenings throughout the year, it also entails darker mornings. Most of those who start work early out of doors, like postmen, farmers and building workers, would obviously prefer to leave things as they are. The same applies in large tracts of the Celtic fringe, where dawn arrives significantly later than in the South. In Scotland, where opposition is most vocal, winter days are that much shorter altogether. In the northern isles, for instance, dawn would not arrive in mid-winter until 10am if Britain moves to Central European Time.

On the other hand the Scandinavian countries seem to have no particular difficulty in adjusting. Building workers there simply start later in the winter. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, the Development Commission for Rural England and the Confederation of British Industry have all come out in favour of the change — though the CBI in Scotland begs to differ.

According to official transport figures more than 600 deaths and serious injuries on the roads could be avoided every year if an hour of winter daylight were moved from the start of the day to the end of it. Experience suggests that drivers and pedestrians (including schoolchildren) are more careless coming home from work than going to it.

In energy costs alone, the evidence in favour of change is said by research specialists to be overwhelming. Meanwhile the life of farmers has been eased by the practice of keeping cows in sheds at night during the winter. This saves the farmer from having to round them up in the dark for milking.

Last summer the Home Office published a Green Paper, outlining its proposal and soliciting the views of interested organizations and individuals. The Home Secretary will tell the Commons later this month that nearly 31,000 representations were received, 81 per cent of which favoured the change. In England and Wales the figure was even higher.

This is cold comfort to those in Scotland, Northern Ireland or west Wales, who will see it as another example of southern bias. The Government has promised a debate in the House of Commons, in which it will probably allow MPs a free vote. The weight of evidence suggests that the move would be in the interests of Britain as a whole.

Charity deals to aid givers

From Mr D. M. N. Simson
Sir, I have been personally involved in fund-raising for a number of years. The suggestion put forward by Dr Dahrendorf (article, January 2) for setting up a foundation in the United Kingdom on a stage big enough to emulate the Ford, Rockefeller and MacArthur foundations is not only mouth-watering but begs the question why it has not been suggested before.

I suspect this may be due to the absence of a condition which actively encourages wealthy private individuals and corporations alike to make contributions sizeable enough for the minimum financial objectives of £1 billion to be achieved.

I refer to the introduction in the United Kingdom of fund-giving tax incentives no less favourable than those that exist in the US; tax incentives which are fiscally attractive to the donors not only because they generate considerable tax reductions in their hands but actually generate additional income to them as well in the right circumstances.

It is all the more regrettable therefore that a very comprehensive and well reasoned set of proposals submitted to the Chancellor in December 1986 and 1987 by representatives of nearly all UK institutions of higher education recommending the introduction of tax incentives that would have made "charitable giving" fiscally attractive fell on deaf ears.

If, therefore, Dr Dahrendorf is really serious about a Ford-like UK foundation he would be well advised to take steps to bring about an amelioration in the UK fiscal climate in so far as it affects "charitable donations" as a very essential first step.

Yours faithfully,
D. M. N. SIMSON,
The Coach House,
22a Priory Road,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
January 3.

From Professor Richard Whitfield
Sir, Ralf Dahrendorf's plea for the establishment of a large new influential UK foundation to promote by private initiative is timely.

There is now huge pressure upon charitable resources. New ideas face an all too competitive situation for resources to develop them. Furthermore, investment in prevention to head off later costly remedial activities in the social field is grossly inadequate.

Dr Colin Murray Parkes's letter (January 2) illustrated this for the field of bereavement counselling, while this trust can document the severe neglect of issues concerning family formation and maintenance which lie at the core of a viable social ecology.

The nation certainly needs new charitable benefactors, but the debate about priorities for spending new money needs to focus upon both useful innovation and the sufficient conditions for achieving the inner personal security and contentment, which all too many adults and children lack in a society which fails to take human potential sufficiently seriously.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WHITFIELD
(Chairman),
National Family Trust,
101 Queen Victoria Street, EC4,
January 3.

Ulster caution

From Mr David Trimble
Sir, Your editorial on Ulster (January 3) is wise to be cautious about the reduced number of terrorist murders in Ulster in 1989. This was partly due to a decision by the IRA to switch its effort to places outside Ulster. If the 15 IRA murders elsewhere are added to the 62 in Ulster the position is not so rosy.

The yearning for peace in Ulster is carried into practice by the thousands of Ulstermen who serve and sacrifice themselves in the various branches of the security forces and by those parties which support them. Nor have Ulstermen lost interest in province-wide politics.

It is now two years since the leader of this party submitted outline proposals for such to the secretary of state, to which there has still been absolutely no response. The failure is chiefly due to the Anglo-Irish Agreement, which has in effect given Dublin and John Hume (leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party) the power to block movement within Ulster.

Yours etc.,
DAVID TRIMBLE
(Honorary Secretary),
Ulster Unionist Council,
3 Glengall Street,
Belfast 12,
January 3.

Freedom of the press

From Mother General
M. Xavier, OSB
Sir, Tyburn Convent is a closed order of nuns and we do not read newspapers, listen to radio, watch television. And recently, to our surprise, we were suddenly invaded by the media just because we play snooker, though they weren't particularly interested in our other pastime, skipping.

Journalists, photographers, radio and television crews arrived to cover our snooker championship, won by Sister Simon, in aid of our £500,000 restoration appeal, and we were all impressed by their courtesy, not only to us,

Cricket mission plea on S Africa

From Mr Peter May and others
Sir, As former England and senior county players, we wish to place on record our admiration and appreciation for the work being carried out by the South African Cricket Union to promote the interests of cricket to all races in South Africa.

We were privileged to be present during the centenary celebrations last year to mark the first Test match between England and South Africa in Port Elizabeth in 1889. During that visit we witnessed the excellent coaching initiatives in the black townships by Dr Ali Bacher and his team, and saw at first hand the various attempts being made by the South African Cricket Union to improve facilities for all cricketers in what, to us, was an alien environment.

We share the South African Cricket Union's distaste of the apartheid system and applaud their efforts to break down the constitutional barriers between races by sporting contact.

We believe that this enterprise should now be encouraged by further international support, and would urge the International Cricket Conference to hear the

case of the South African Cricket Union and other cricketing authorities from South Africa by sending a fact-finding mission to that country. We should also urge those cricketers who will be playing in South Africa in the next months to assist in the coaching of youngsters, and we believe that their visit could help to promote the long-term interests of young black cricketers.

We recognise the real changes that have been brought about by boycotts, but accept the view that now is the time for inspiration, as within South Africa itself cricket is now known and accepted as a force for change.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MAY,
DENNIS AMISS,
DAVID BAIRSTOW,
DAVID BROWN,
DENIS COMPTON,
JOHN EDWARDS,
NORMAN GIFFORD,
COLIN INGLEBY-MACKENZIE,
MICHAEL J. K. SMITH,
FRED S. TRUEMAN,
FRANK TWISLETON,
ROBERT WATTS,
Freedom in Sport International,
International Headquarters,
PO Box 42D, London, W1,
January 4.

Philosophy for sport

From Mr Edward Grayson
Sir, Your leading article, "Unfair game" (December 29) justly acknowledges the "important service" done by Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, and Mr Menzies Campbell, the Liberal Democrats' spokesman on sport, for having put anabolic steroids "firmly en route to the statute book".

Such progress, however, also directs attention to an even greater problem for the whole of British sport, as defined by the creator of the role of minister for sport, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, nearly 30 years ago.

He recalled, in *The Door Wherein I Went* (1975) how during the early 1960s he explained to Mr Macmillan's Cabinet the "need, not for a ministry, but for a focal point under a minister", and more significantly, "for a coherent body of doctrine, perhaps even a philosophy of government encouragement", in relation to "government responsibility for sport".

Successive prime ministers since then have implemented regularly the first of these two requirements, beginning with Lord Hailsham in 1962, during his period of office as minister for science and technology. The intervening years have progressively emphasised the necessity for not only re-thinking the minister's constitutional legal status as an under-secretary in the Department of the Environment but also for filling the gap left by the continued absence of any coherent Government policy or philosophy concerning sport.

House of pairs

From Mr Andrew Faulds, MP for Warrley East (Labour)
Sir, Nigel Williamson (Diary, January 3) compared those in the House of Commons who use the traditional pairing arrangements and those who disdain them.

MPs who are less constantly in the House may well be more constant to their duties, which include absences at constituency engagements, executive attendances at meetings of extra-parliamentary societies, embassy functions, travels to international organisations such as the Council of Europe, Western European Union, Nato and so on.

The rituals of the House are frequently of less importance than an MP's extra-mural involvement, which some of us in the real world of political work take on. Simon Stylites, stuck in one spot in self-imposed suffering, proved only his obduracy.

Sincerely,
ANDREW FAULDS,
House of Commons,
January 4.

Flourishing canal

From the Chairman of the Manchester Ship Canal Co
Sir, I read with interest your feature, "On This Day" (January 2) reporting on the opening of the Manchester Ship Canal on January 1, 1894.

I am pleased to say that not only is the canal still held in great affection by those in the region, but it also remains a vital artery linking Manchester and the surrounding industrial heartland. In 1989 the canal handled over 8 million tonnes of traffic and remains a major UK port. This year an extensive modernisation programme starts.

As the centenary of the opening approaches, it is therefore heartening that the canal continues to justify entirely the foresight and bravery of the deeds of its founders and that it will continue

to play an important role in the region's future.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HOUGH, Chairman,
The Manchester Ship Canal Co,
Dock Office, Trafford Road,
Manchester 5.

From Mrs Gerald Critchley
Sir, The designer of the Manchester Ship Canal opened in 1894, Sir Leader (not Leander) Williams, was my great uncle. His brother, Benjamin Williams Leader, RA, was commissioned to paint the canal in construction (pictures now in Tatton Hall, Knutsford, Cheshire).

He used to tell us that, when sketching by the canal side he was watched by two workmen, and heard one say to the other: "That bloke has a fist what won't let him starve!"

Yours faithfully,
PHYLLIS CRITCHLEY,
34a Elizabeth Street, SW1.

City and East End

From Mr Muhammad Haque
Sir, The inquiry represented by the City and its relationship with the East End and the Bangladeshis cannot be begun to be reversed unless those like Mr Lee Williams (January 2) and Mr Wade (January 4) are seen to be acting in response to the Bangladeshis' democratic wishes. So far, no evidence exists that either Tynbee Hall or the Lloyd's Community Programme is run along the lines fitting this description.

The Committee for Bangladeshis' Rights in the United Kingdom, which has been at the forefront of the campaign for the establishment of the Bangladeshis' legitimate rights since July, 1989, has not received a single indication from either organisation asking us about the wishes, let alone the demands of the Bangladeshis.

Yours sincerely,
MUHAMMAD HAQUE
(Chairman),
Committee for Bangladeshis' Rights in the United Kingdom,
183 Cannon Street Road, E1.

to play an important role in the region's future.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HOUGH, Chairman,
The Manchester Ship Canal Co,
Dock Office, Trafford Road,
Manchester 5.

From Mr D. B. Kelly
Sir, In view of our coming links with Europe, and the crumbling barriers between so many countries, would the Neighbourly Nineties be appropriate?

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET E. BERRY,
20 Park Crescent,
Harrow, Middlesex,
January 2.

Kingly moment in Romania

From Mr David Creggan
Sir, Mr B. D. J. Meehan (January 2) points out that, in the power vacuum resulting from recent events in Eastern Europe, there are legitimate heads of state constitutionally available.

As it happens, at the time of the overthrow of the Ceausescu régime, I was staying with the Romanian royal family in Geneva and attended, with them and a largely Romanian congregation, the Christmas Eve service at the Russian Orthodox Church.

Part of the service specifically recalled the memory of those killed in the continued fighting. King Michael, obviously moved, represented the pride, sorrow and hope of the Romanians present. As they approached his tall figure the word "Majesté" was uttered almost in a whisper and sounded like a prayer.

Romania has a king, a king who was crowned head of state and who courageously drove out the Nazis. As he said in his Christmas message broadcast to his compatriots this year:

I am with you as I always have been, even when you could not hear me, to help you in any way that is in my power. As in our motto, *Nihil sine Deo*, God bless you all. Long live free Romania.

I hope the Romanians are allowed to have their king back. Yours sincerely,
DAVID CREGGAN,
The Studio,
St Andrew's House,
76 Roupell Street, SE1,
January 2.

From Mr James D. Graham
Sir, Most of us are hoping that the events in Eastern Europe are not a false dawn: that the communist dictatorships will not be replaced by other authoritarian régimes.

Let us also hope that what is happening in the Far East, specifically in China, is not the end of liberalisation but what the Shetlanders call the summer dim: the short midsummer night when it is never truly dark and the new day is close at hand.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. GRAHAM,
544 Paisley Road West,
Glasgow.

Naming the nineties

From Mrs Pamela Holmes
Sir, Mrs Stewart-Wallace, in her letter (January 1) is perhaps a bit premature in contemplating a suitable epithet for the nineties which have just clocked in. Let us hope it won't be Nasty.

Yours truly,
PAMELA HOLMES,
Bridge House,
West Hythe, Kent,
January 1.

From Mr Paul Gotch
Sir, Let us hope that by 2000 AD we can name and remember the decade as the Nice Nineties.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL GOTCH,
15a Coppe Hill,
Wimbledon, SW20,
January 2.

From Mr Adrian Brodtkin
Sir, In optimistic spirit at this beginning of the new decade, I am looking forward to the Non-Nuclear Nineties.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN BRODKIN,
93 Kingsley Way, N2.

From Mrs M. E. Berry
Sir, In view of our coming links with Europe, and the crumbling barriers between so many countries, would the Neighbourly Nineties be appropriate?

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET E. BERRY,
20 Park Crescent,
Harrow, Middlesex,
January 2.

From Mr D. B. Kelly
Sir, In view of our coming links with Europe, and the crumbling barriers between so many countries, would the Neighbourly Nineties be appropriate?

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET E. BERRY,
20 Park Crescent,
Harrow, Middlesex,
January 2.

From Mr Jan Wolonicki
Sir, May I suggest the Nervous Nineties as a suitable description for what is likely to be a turbulent decade.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. WOLONICKI,
5 The Old Granary,
Dixies High Street,
Ashwell, Hertfordshire.

From Mr James R. Cullen
Sir, In view of the staggering amounts of debt, both here and in the rest of the world, might not the Never-Never Nineties be an appropriate title?

Yours sincerely,
JAMES R. CULLEN,
2 Church Street,
Ewell Village,
Epsom, Surrey,
January 1.

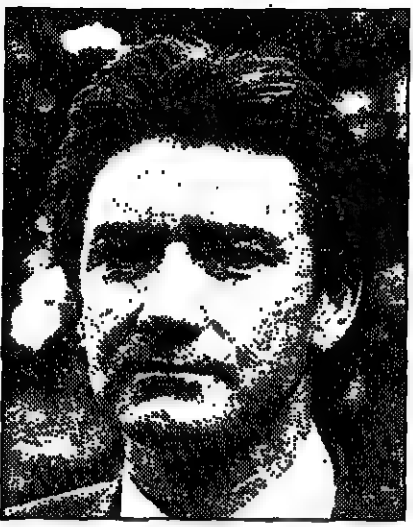
Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

SATURDAY'S SCOTTISH TV AND RADIO

Pounding the Liver beat

Peter Waymark

Created by Phil Redmond, of *Grange Hill* and *Brookside*, *Waterfront Beat* (BBC1, 8.00pm) has the difficult task of trying to breathe new life into one of television's most worked-over genres, the police series, while attracting the large audience appropriate to a prime slot in the schedules. Returning to *Z-Cars* country, Redmond has set the series on Merseyside. But while *Z-Cars* engaged with the new housing estates of the 1960s, *Waterfront Beat* reflects a theme of the 1980s and 1990s — the regeneration of the waterfront areas of the industrial cities. Inevitably the first



Rogue cop: John Ashton as the new divisional commander (BBC1, 8.00pm)

episode is much taken up with establishing the characters and setting and it will be difficult to draw firm conclusions until the series has had a chance to run itself. But though the title suggests an ensemble approach on the lines of *Hill Street Blues* or *The Bill*, we seem to have the makings of a central character in the new divisional commander (a promisingly tough performance from John Ashton) whose first day in the job provides a unifying theme for tonight's instalment. Early skirmishes with superiors and subordinates suggest a rogue cop in the tradition of Dirty Harry and Regan in *The Sweeney*. Another significant pointer, perhaps, is that while series such as *The Bill* rarely move into policemen's private lives, the commander is shown with a glamorous blonde wife and small daughter. Balancing the arrival of the boss is that of a rookie called Ronnie Barker, whose name becomes the predictable butt of heavy-handed humour. As one would expect of a Redmond script, the dialogue is crisp and pointed and promotes a strong interplay of character. All in all, *Waterfront Beat* is off to a useful start.

Back on television after a gap of four years, Dave Allen (BBC1, 10.00pm) draws attention to his pared down format by joking about it: "No actors, no sketches, no titles — it's cheap." Not everything has gone. The chair is still there and so is the glass of refreshment. He sips the liquid but spurns the chair, boldly filling the half hour with an interrupted stand-up routine. Allen's language seems less inhibited than before, and he reminds us that since he was last on the screen he has passed his half century — a cue for jokes about the hazards of growing old and trying to keep abreast of technological change.

As easy as apple and apricot pie

Peter Davalle

Until I heard Roy's Recipes (Radio 2, 6.30pm), I assumed that to teach cooking on radio was as unlikely as teaching golf. But I had reckoned without the peculiarly visual style of Roy Jeffries, whose verbal pictures are so vivid that when he tells us that the first step in making pigs' trotters soup is to snip off the toe-nails, there is scarcely any need for the quick burst of "Old Macdonald Had a Farm". With trotters costing 8p each, Jeffries is justified in claiming that his cookery hints won't cost anyone the earth. His is a cheap kitchen. Being a former member of the Black and White Minstrels, he runs a cheerful kitchen, too, breaking out into a chorus of "A little of what you fancy" or "Ma, I miss your apple pie" at the drop of a soup ladle. Actually, it is the preparation of his Auntie Alice's apple and apricot pie that he guides us through tonight, making history, in a modest way, by telling us what size eggs to use.



Roy Jeffries: a cheap and cheerful kitchen (R2, 6.30pm)

Classes Apart? (Radio 4, 4.00pm) does not need the question mark because this series about three families living within 10 miles of each other, makes it clear that, socially, they are 1,000 miles apart. The Taylors (Georgian mansion), the Moreys (restored cottage) and the Jennings (council house) have only one thing in common: they all live in Somerset.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 16

MALICHO
(a) Presumably to mean mischief, perhaps from the Spanish *malicho* a misdeed, the classic original citation from Hamlet, in the Prince of Denmark's running commentary on the *Mouse-trap*: "Marry this is Malicho Malicho." So what is this malicho, Ed?

ERS
(C) The bitter vetch, *Erva eriochloa*, from the Latin *erina* vetch, cognate with the Catalan *er*, Spanish *pero*, Baster *paroch*.

RASSE
(a) A small civet-cat, *Viverrica indica*, or *Macaca* Weasel, from the Japanese *rase*: "While all the other civets are non-heraldic animals, the rase is said to be an expert climber."
ENCOLPION
(c) A cross or reliquary worn at the breast, in the form of an oval medallion, worn by prelates of the Orthodox churches, some of whom are privileged to wear two, from the Greek *en* in + *kolpos* breast.

BBC 1

7.30 Saturday Starts with Wayne Jackson and Ian Treganion, beginning with *Playboys* (7.30) *Leiner and Hardy in 1980s Style* (7.40) *Mersey Tales*, Shiri Taylor with the story *Calling Terry Ashworth*, by David Self

8.05 The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse, animated wondrous adventures and leads of heroism 8.20 *ChuckieVision*, More chaos with the Chuckie Brothers when they take up window cleaning 8.35 *Thundercats*, Animated science fiction adventures (7)

8.00 *Going Live!* Philip Schofield and Sarah Greene host a morning full of cartoons, competitions and fun for young people, including the Video Vote and the Double Dare. 12.12 Weather.

12.15 *Grassroots* introduced by Desmond Lynam. The programme is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Football: a preview of this afternoon's FA Cup third round matches: 12.40, 1.10 and 1.40 *Backlog from Haystack*. The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan and Richard Pimms: 1.55 *News*: 1.25 and 2.25 *Ski Jumping* from Bischofshofen and Innsbruck, with commentary by Ron Pickering: 1.55 and 4.00 *Table Tennis*: the Leeds English open championships from Manchester. The commentators are Peter Walker and Don Parker: 2.40 *Cycle Cross*: the Falcon National championships from Sutton Park, Birmingham. The commentators are Hugh Jones, 4.00 *Football highlights*: 4.35 *Final Score*

5.05 *News* and weather 5.15 *Scottish News* and sport 5.20 *The Flying Doctors*, No Laughing Matter. Australian drama series centring around the Royal Flying Doctor Service. With their mother lying on her death-bed, the Cochrane brothers open an old trunk which reveals secret treasures collected throughout her life, and the romance between Sam and Emma takes a turn for the worse when she realises that she is unsure about committing herself. Starring Robert Grubb, Liz Burch, Lenore Smith and Peter O'Brien. (Ceefax)

6.05 *Just a Fix It*. In this first of a new series Jimmy Savile fixes it for, among others, eight-year-old Becky Midgley to make a special cheese for her grandparents, 13-year-old David Kingham to be the manager of a London cinema and nine-year-old Tim Oxborough to become the Invisible Man. (Ceefax)

6.40 *Bob's Red House*. Bob Workhouse invites more contestants to battle with their wits on the bingo board. (Ceefax)

7.15 *The Paul Daniels Magic Show*. Paul Daniels uses a little touch of wizardry to perform a few spells in this first of a new series, with the help of his special guests Barry McGuigan, Mouvaque, an award-winning trapeze act from Canada, and the juggling Esquada family from San Francisco. (Ceefax)

8.00 *Waterfront Beat*. (Ceefax) (see Choice)

8.30 *News* and Sport.

9.10 *Midnight Caller*. The *Tarnished Shield*. Ex-cop turned late night radio chat show DJ Kilian, receives a call from a depressed young policeman who, shortly after, kills himself. The death leads Kilian to uncover corruption and a major scandal in the San Francisco police department. Starring Gary Cole and Wendy Koppelman. (Ceefax)

10.00 *Dave Allen* (see Choice)

10.30 *Sportscast* introduced by Dougie Donnelly. Highlights from today's Premier League, with commentary by Archie Macpherson, and from south of the border where First and Second division clubs are involved in the FA Cup third round

11.40 *Film: Deadly Lessons* (1983) starring Donna Reed and Larry Wilcox. A made-for-television thriller about the murder of a pupil at an exclusive girls' boarding school. Headmistress decides to conceal the crime in order to preserve the school's reputation, but when the killer strikes again, panic and terror loom in every corridor and dormitory. With *Die Hard* and *Deana Freeman*. Directed by William Ward. (Ceefax)

1.10am *Weather*.

SCOTTISH

6.00 TV-am begins with News followed by *It's Stardust*. Alan Sturges with stories, songs and cartoons. 7.00 *WAC 90* presented by Michaela Strachan and Tommy Boyd: 9.30 *News*

9.35 *Mersey Tales* 2 includes Kylie Minogue's new video: Marika with her latest single and the latest video from New Kids on the Block. Plus Andrea Arnold's first report from Kenya on the ivory trade

11.30 *The JTV Chart Show*. The Vintage Video slot features Madonna's new video and 1.05 LWT *News* and weather 1.05 LWT *News* and weather

1.10 *Saint and Greaves*, Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves with a preview of the day's football action

1.40 *Sportsman*. Jackie Davies invites three more contestants to test their sporting knowledge

2.10 *Coronation Street*. Omnibus edition of Wednesday and Friday's episodes

3.05 *Snooker: Mercantile Credit Classic*. Blackpool's Northcott Hotel is the venue for the last battle between the last 16 hopefuls for the 200,000 prize pot

4.45 *News* and weather 5.10 LWT *News* and weather

5.15 *Cartoon* with Bugs Bunny. 5.30 *Catchphrase*. Guessing game show (Oracle)

6.00 *Sind Dale*. Cilla Black matches up two more couples. (Oracle)

6.50 *Film: Baywatch* — *Penic at Malibu Pier* (1989) starring David Hasselhoff. A feature-length introduction to a new series about a group of Los Angeles life guards who have adventures both on and off the beach. Today, Mitch (Hasselhoff) is wrapped up in a custody battle over his son. Directed by Richard Compton

8.40 *News* with Fiona Armstrong, sport and weather

9.00 *Jekyll and Hyde*. Michael Caine stars as the schizophrenic doctor in this adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic horror tale. Dr Jekyll creates a formula which he hopes will alter the human state in a positive way. He experiments on himself and creates the hideous Mr Hyde. With Cheryl Ladd, Josee Ackland and Lionel Jeffries. (Oracle)

10.50 *Snooker: Mercantile Credit Classic*. Continuing coverage from Blackpool, presented by Tony Franco

12.30am *Film: The Rose* (1979) starring Betty Midler and Alan Bates. Drama about a successful singer whose career crashes after she becomes addicted to alcohol and drugs. Directed by Mark Rydell

3.00 *The Hill Man and His*. Michaela Strachan and Peter Waymark introduce the latest club sounds.

4.00 *The Mystery of Mount Ararat*. A documentary following a recent expedition to Mount Ararat — one that seemed to be destined to uncover nothing until the researchers, by accident, found evidence that put them on a new track towards theories supported by compelling physical evidence

4.30 *America's Top Ten*. The top ten albums of 1989

5.00 *ITN Morning News* with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00



Schizophrenic: Michael Caine as Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (ITV, 9.00pm)

As Scottish except: 12.30pm-1.00 ALF 12.30pm *Film: The Bell* 2.00 *The Hill Man* and Her 4.00-4.30 *First Exposure*

BBC 2

9.00 *Open University* 11.00 *Twin Wonders* and the Atlantic. The story of Frederic Beuchene and Thierry Caron's attempt to cross the North Atlantic on a 25-foot-long twin windsurfer (7)

11.50 *Film: My Learned Friend* (1941) starring Will Hay. Black comedy about a barrister who finds he is included in a crazy convict's "wanted list". Directed by Basil Dearden

1.00 *News* and weather 1.05 LWT *News* and weather

1.10 *In the Post*. Designing and producing new postage stamps (7)

1.35 *Designing the Woodhouse Way* (7)

2.00 *Shriek*. Episode one of Saratchandra Chatterjee's semi-autobiographical novel set in Bengal at the turn of the century. (In Hindi with English subtitles) (7)

2.40 *Film: Flying Down to Rio* (1933) starring Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire. Musical romance about the adventures of a band touring around South America. Directed by Thornton Freeland

4.05 *Film: Tom, Dick and Harry* (1941) starring Ginger Rogers, George Murphy, Alan Marshall and Burgess Meredith. A modest small-town girl working as a telephone operator is torn between three men. Directed by Garson Kanin

5.30 *World News*. A new series introduces coverage of the Embassy World Professional Championship

7.00 *News* with Chris Lowe and Laurie Munn

7.45 *Sorry... Private View* and Audience. Two satires on Czech communist society by Václav Jemel, newly-elected president of Czechoslovakia. In the first of a series of 10 reports on stories from all over Europe

8.00 *Conquer the Arctic For the Gort Trophy*. Two men teams from eight countries do sporting battle against each other and the Arctic weather for four days. The sports include ice-climbing, biathlon, canoeing and Nordic skiing

8.00 *4 Play: Valentine Falls*. Eddie wonders why Valentine, a young black Englishman, has replied to his advertisement for a barman in a pub in the Fair's Road, Belfast

10.15 *The Film Club*. Film critic Philip French introduces Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid (1973) starring James Coburn, John Richardson and Bob Dylan. Tough western about a former outlaw who turns lawman and is compelled to track down his one-time outlaw partner Billy the Kid. Directed by Sam Peckinpah. (Ceefax)

12.00 *World Darts*. David Ikin with further coverage of the Embassy World Darts Championships, from the Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green. Ends at 1.05am

1.05am *News* with Chris Lowe and Laurie Munn

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CHANNEL 4

6.00 *Durall in Russia* (7) 6.30 *Just a Fan* 7.00 *Once Upon a Time* 7.30 *News* 8.00 *Trans World Sport* 8.30 *Channel Four Racing: The Morning Line*

9.25 *Sing and Swing* with the stars of the 1930s and 1940s 9.30 *Listening Eye* looks behind the scenes of the British Deaf Association (7)

10.00 *To the End of the Rhine*. The first in a series in which Bernard Levin follows the course of the Rhine (7)

10.35 *The Batman* (b/w). The final episode of the 1943 cinema serial. 11.00 *Film: The Gaunt Stranger* (1935) starring Wilfrid Lawson and Sonnie Hale. A criminal master of disguise, the Ranger, carries out a quest to kill his former partner despite police protection. Directed by Walter Forde

12.20 *Dance With Me* 12.50 *Champion* from Sandown. The 12.35, 1.30, 2.05 and 2.55 races

3.00 *Film: That Midnight Kiss* (1949) starring Mario Lanza as a truck driver who becomes an opera star. Directed by Norman Taurog

4.50 *Movie Museum* (b/w). Featuring 1920s footage of Carole Lombard and *Conquest of the North Pole*, made in 1909

5.00 *News* (7) (Oracle)

6.00 *Song of the Forest*. Sting and 200 British schoolchildren perform Yonamomo, a ecological musical about the Amazon rainforest (7)

7.00 *The World This Week*. The world news headlines and an assessment of international developments, presented by Michael Nicholson

7.15 *News*. The first of a series of 10 reports on stories from all over Europe

8.00 *Conquer the Arctic For the Gort Trophy*. Two men teams from eight countries do sporting battle against each other and the Arctic weather for four days. The sports include ice-climbing, biathlon, canoeing and Nordic skiing

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CHANNEL 5

6.00am *Barrier Reef* 6.30 *The Flying Kiwi* 7.00 *Fun Factory* 11.00 *The Battle* 12.00 *Frank Bought* 1.00pm *The Invisible Man* 2.00 *All-American Wrestling* 3.00 *Man from Atlantis* 4.00 *Chopper Squad* 5.00 *Dolly* 6.00 *Little House on the Prairie* 8.00 *Robbery Under Arms* 10.00 *WWF Superstars* of Wrestling 89 11.00 *Sky News* 11.30 *Don Johnson* — *Heartbeat*

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Berlin's fashion bargains of 1950s

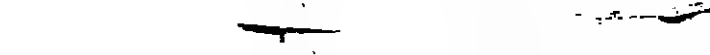
Mr Kenneth Ferguson, aged 60, of New Elgin, Grampian, who was caught in an avalanche at the foot of a gully in Coire na Criche, near Braemar, was said to be in a satisfactory condition at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.



Defence haggling

pected to draw up specific charges relating to pure cocaine seized by the invading forces in General Noriega's personal quarters.

Scotland and Northern Ire



هكذا من الأصل

— 24 —

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6380 (+0.0105)
West German mark
2.7489 (+0.0033)
Exchange index
87.0 (+0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1948.8 (-8.5)
FT-SE 100
2444.5 (-7.1)
USM (Datastream)
n/a

Market report, page 20

Temple bid
for SeaCon
extended

Temple, the consortium bidding \$1.12 billion (£683.3 million) for Sea Containers, the Sealink ferry enterprise, has again extended its offer, to January 19, while strongly criticising the SeaCon board for "attempting to coerce" shareholders.

The bidders, whose appeal from an earlier defeat in the Bermuda courts will start on January 22, are angry that SeaCon shareholders will consider the management's rival restructuring plan at a special meeting on February 24, before they can vote on Temple's plans for the company.

Temple, jointly owned by the Swedish shipping line Stena and Britain's Tiplink container group, wants to remove the existing board and replace it with its own nominees.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2789.25 (-8.85)
Dow Jones	2789.25 (-8.85)
Nikkei Average	36274.76 (-436.12)
Hong Kong	2639.94 (-28.01)
Amsterdam	1172 (-1.48)
Sydney	1710.8 (-4.0)
Frankfurt	1820.00 (-15.85)
General	6572.50 (-28.85)
Paris CAC	n/a
Zurich S&K	625.3 (-6.1)
London	
FT-30 Share	1948.8 (-8.5)
FT-100	2444.5 (-7.1)
FT Gold Index	306.4 (-7.7)
FT Fixed Interest	82.71 (+0.12)
FT Govt Secur	84.1 (+0.1)
Recent issues	
Closing prices	Page 21

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:	
Cadbury Schweppes	389p (+15p)
Kwik Save	591p (+11p)
Berhard	707p (+15p)
Sage Group	171p (+13p)
Volvo	283p (+15p)
Rechem	772p (+10p)
Esprit Trust	145p (+10p)
Usher Walker	363p (+23p)
WPP	711p (+20p)
Cable Comm	422p (+10p)
American	383p (+10p)
Costes Brod	475p (+25p)

FALLS:

Brit Aerospace	579p (-11p)
Whitman Reeve	463p (-22p)
PMG Group	725p (-19p)
Eurotunnel Units	682p (-30p)
Western Motors	595p (-15p)
Lucas	885p (-17p)
Bank Org	878p (-17p)
FAI	125p (-11p)
Closing prices	41257
Bargains	489.7m
SEAQ Volume	489.7m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	15%
3-month interbank	15%-15%
3-month official bill	14%-14%
US Prime Rate	10 1/4%
Federal Funds	8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill	7.53-7.51%
30-year bond	100%-101%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
\$1.6380	\$1.6380
£1.0000	£1.0000
DM2.7489	DM2.7489
SwFr2.5127	SwFr2.5127
FFFr4.0091	FFFr4.0091
Yen145.35	Yen145.35
Indr37.0	Indr37.0
ECU20.34454	SDR20.34454
SDR1.36155	SDR1.36155

GOLD

London Fixing	404.00-405.00
AM 404.00-405.00	close 404.50-405.00
COMEX 404.00-404.40	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brut (Feb) ...	\$21.65 bbl (\$21.50)
Discount latest trading price	

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$	2.25	1.92
Belgium \$	20.25	19.25
Canada \$	1.38	1.37
Denmark Kr	11.17	10.57
France Fr	6.52	6.22
Germany DM	2.475	2.365
Greenland Kr	27.5	25.4
Hong Kong \$	13.28	12.46
India Rs	1.10	1.03
Italy Lit	2165	2055
Japan Yen	236	224
Netherlands Gld	3.25	3.05
Norway Kr	11.29	10.54
Portugal Esc	208	198
South Africa Rd	4.49	4.08
Spain Ptas	162.50	174.00
Sweden Kr	10.35	9.58
Switzerland Fr	2.53	2.47
Taiwan New \$	40.50	36.50
UK £	1.72	1.62
Yugoslavia Dnr	1.22	1.12

King of survivors feels his crown slipping

From Martin Winn, Sydney

The "great survivor" may finally be about to step aside, or at least share his crown. But reverberations from the demise of Mr Alan Bond's once proud empire will, like most events in his roller-coaster career, be felt far and wide.

Mr Bond has achieved wonders promoting Australia to the world business stage over the past 10 years.

But the vast international publicity generated by his slow and agonising slide from grace is proving a millstone for other Australian businessmen.

Bankers are closing their doors to enterprising companies, and firms daring to make forays overseas

frequently find themselves cold shouldered. Fall out from the debt-laden Bond Corporation has also reached the political arena.

Company supervisors are looking flat-footed after being led one too many dances by the Bond Group. And the West Australian government, Mr Bond's one-time eagerly now turned bitter enemy, is battling to distance itself from the state's biggest financial disaster.

Federal ministers can only be grateful that Mr Bond's demise should, hopefully, not trigger the sort of national calamity that was threatened last year.

Then, the Bond Group's debt mountain had peaked at almost

Aus\$12 billion (£5.8 billion), more than 10 per cent of the country's total external borrowings. The race in recent months to offload more than Aus\$6 billion of Bond group assets has eased concern that a collapse could spark a banking crisis and deliver a painful jolt to the economy. Fortunately, too, most of the banks still exposed to Mr Bond are owned overseas.

But nagging questions remain. How did he get so far? What went wrong? Why did someone not call a halt earlier?

Bankers, brokers and the investing public - from New York to Sydney - were swept up by Mr Bond's irrepressible enthusiasm and

his envied reputation of the maestro wheeler-dealer.

None was too bothered about his group's high-risk strategy so long as it kept piling up the earnings and expanding at great net speed.

Only a year ago, Mr Bond was riding high. Apparently uncathed by the stock market crash the year before, Australia's brash businessman was still borrowing and buying big.

He was overseeing a disparate empire that stretched from Hong Kong television to United States brewing, British property to Chilean telephones. Board rooms around the globe trembled at his appearance on their share registers. Today, his

castle is in ruins. Dismantling of the Bond Group began last year and will accelerate. And the Perth businessman is a laughing stock in the world of international finance.

Mr Bond is still sitting on about Aus\$250 million of personal debt.

His pursuit of corporate growth was achieved in a flurry of spectacular local takeovers and audacious foreign raids, punctuated by highly profitable asset sales and fuelled all the time by an unprecedented borrowing binge. His chances of staging a comeback if he does code control, are most doubtful. Few banks would lend support, and there must be few private investors willing to stake him.

Higgs rejects Lovell package

By Neil Bennett

YJ Lovell has launched a £160 million final offer for Higgs & Hill, the rival construction group. The bid was accompanied by another fiery exchange between the two about the health of their businesses and their future profits.

Higgs rejected the bid almost immediately, claiming it "totally failed to reflect the value of its business." It accused Lovell of having speculative housebuilding profits and suggested its financial position is already stretched.

Lovell is offering a similar cash, shares and preference shares package to its original bid, but has doubled the cash element to 126p per share. The full bid is worth 479p a share, with an increased cash alternative worth 461p. This is 65p above the previous offer.

It originally thought it would win the bid at 450p a share, but has been forced higher due to the strength of Higgs' defence. Higgs' shares sank 11p to 448p since the market had been expecting a bid of up to £5 a share. Traders doubted whether the bid would succeed at this level.

Lovell's shares by contrast gained 14p to 344p, in relief that the market was not being asked to underwrite a significantly higher offer. Lovell has traditionally stood at a premium to the construction sector, but has missed its recent 15 per cent rise due to the bid.

Sir Brian Hill, Higgs' chairman, said: "they are only offering an exit price/earnings ratio of 8.6, which is close to the sector average. If Lovell expects to take out a business of our quality without a premium they are wholly wrong."

In its previous defence, Higgs tried to show that on an asset valuation for its housebuilding and property division together with an earnings value for its construction division, the company was worth more than 600p a share, plus a premium for control.

Higgs' rejection questions the whole basis of Lovell's profitability. It asks if its housebuilding profits will fall this year, if its US business is secure, and shows that the group's on and off-balance sheet debt had risen from £98 million to £160 million in the year to September.

"Look at them," said Mr Andrew Wassell, Lovell's chief executive. "They have had a 50 per cent drop in private housebuilding sales last year, compared with our increase, and we are forecasting an increase this year. Which of us is stronger?"

The final offer's first closing date is January 20.

Singapore firm seeks majority stake in group

Bond in talks on control

By Angela Mackay

For the first time, Mr Alan Bond, the beleaguered Australian businessman, has given a sign he may be prepared to give up control of Bond Corp by entering into negotiations with California Pacific International, a Singapore investment company, for the sale of a controlling interest in his master company.

In a statement yesterday from Los Angeles, where Weatherby, CPI's US subsidiary, is based, Mr Jeff Reynolds, the CPI chairman, said negotiations were "going on with Australia's Bond Corp Holdings in which CPI would acquire a controlling interest" in return for an investment of "as much as Aus\$250 million (£120 million)."

Initially, Bond Corp denied knowledge of the talks but later Mr Tony Oates, Bond Corp's finance director, said: "There have been some discussions with the chairman about injecting equity into Bond Corp."

Mr Reynolds said the cash injection would be in exchange for an undetermined number of ordinary shares issued through a private placement which would be approved by Bond Corp shareholders.

It is unclear just how far negotiations have progressed but sources said it appears Mr Bond is talking as chairman of Dallhold Investments, his family company, which owns about 52 per cent of Bond Corp.

However, the clinching of a deal is predicated on legal proceedings, initiated by National Australia Bank, to place Bond Corp into receivership being resolved, and talks with Mr Bond will not take place

until this occurs. Mr Reynolds also said the goal of Weatherby and California Pacific International was to restructure the majority of Bond's troubled debt through a combination of equity and debt placements, the divestment of non-core operations - to permit the organization to concentrate on its significant resource businesses.

He said Bond Corp would not be or become the subject of a liquidation. The group's objectives were to reorganize Bond Corp, and to diversify its business operations to include financial services and steel.

Mr Reynolds also said a group of businesses had already been identified as ideal diversification/acquisition candidates.

Provided the court case is laid to rest, a meeting with Mr Bond is expected before January 15.

Meanwhile, the queue of angry creditors demanding instant repayment by Bond Corp lengthened yesterday, when US investors asked the company's brewing division to buy back \$510 million (£313 million) of its debentures (Martin Winn writes from Sydney).

Drexel Burnham Lambert and other debenture holders made their demand in the Victoria supreme court, after intervening to support last week's appointment of receivers to Bond Brewing.

Lawyers representing the American investors said they may apply early next week for the liquidation of Bond Brewing or even Bond Corporation if, as seems inevitable, they are not refunded by then.

The latest blow to Mr Bond came as he continued a legal fight to regain control of his core Australian breweries. It took the total of repayment demands served on the Bond group to Aus\$1.6 billion - about a quarter of net borrowings.

The rush of calls on Bond Corp overshadowed a rare victory for the group, in the Perth supreme court, which threw out the first legal move to appoint a provisional liquidator for the company.

It dismissed the winding-up petition by the West Australian State Government Insurance Commission, as "an abuse of the court process" and said it had not proved Bond Corp was insolvent.

Mr Insull denied that Mr Bond is anxious to sell quickly to meet demands from creditors. "Our instructions are to sell them at their normal market price," he said, adding they had been up for sale since October.

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Two yachts on sale for £20.2m

Antibes (Renter) - Mr Alan Bond is selling two sailing boats valued at more than \$33 million (£20.25 million) a yachting agent said.

Mr Peter Insull, who is arranging the sales, said the Bond Corporation yacht Southern Cross III, anchored at Antibes, has a market value of \$25 million.

The other boat, a three-masted schooner once known as Jessica, but re-named Schooner XXXX to publicize Bond's brewery, has been estimated at \$8.5 million, he added.

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Negotiating: Alan Bond, who is talking with California Pacific International in Los Angeles

Fewer new US jobs as economy slows

From Susan Elliott, Washington

In a further sign of a sluggish economy, US employers are continuing to create jobs but at a much slower rate than at the start of last year. Businesses outside the farm sector hired 142,000 employees during December.

The figure, which was already below average, was affected by the return to work of 55,000 striking telephone company workers. The number of manufacturing jobs fell for the ninth month in a row.

Manufacturing industry, which suffered last year from a higher cost of borrowing as the Federal Reserve sought to control inflation, shed 25,000 jobs last month, bringing losses since March last year to

195,000, the Labour Department reported.

Its survey of households found that the overall unemployment rate for the last month of 1989 was 5.3 per cent, or equal to the downwardly revised November figure and the average rate for 1989. Last month 6.7 million Americans were looking for jobs but unable to find them.

Overall growth in jobs during the second half of last year was an average 150,000 a month, compared with 270,000 a month over the previous two and a half years. Most job growth was in the service industries, while the number of building jobs continued to fall.

Dollar weakens on faltering growth

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The renewed downturn in the dollar, set off by the Bundesbank's intervention, was given a further push by the US employment figures showing a weak economy.

After the announcement that the increase in non-farm payrolls had dropped from 223,000 to 142,000 last month the dollar fell by almost a pennig and bond prices rose as lower interest rates became more likely.

By mid-afternoon in London the dollar was trading at around DM1.6810, down 0.85 of a pennig on the previous close.

The yen, however, remained weak on the political uncertainties surrounding the

February elections, and the dollar traded up 0.4 of a yen at Y144.

The pound was firmer, rising against both the dollar and the mark.

By mid-afternoon it was trading up 0.95 of a cent at \$1.6370 and up 1.03 pence at DM2.7559. The effective rate index was 0.3 firmer at 87.

Mr Stephen Hannah, of NatWest Capital Markets, said: "There is definitely a better tone to sterling."

"When you acquire a bombed-out status there is only one way to go."

"The pound is likely to consolidate and make some progress over the next few weeks."

Reference over CGE and Southern levels of influence in firms

MMC to examine water stakes

By Martin Waller

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, has referred holdings in two small water companies to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for a four-month investigation.

The stakes are 29 per cent in Mid Kent, held by the British offshoot of Compagnie Generale des Eaux, and 25 per cent in Mid Sussex, held by the recently-privatized Southern Water.

Under last year's Water Act, the DTI must refer any "merger" where both parties control a water enterprise with assets exceeding £30 million.

Mr Ridley has decided the two stakes satisfy the criteria under the Act, on the grounds that the acquisition of the holdings gives CGE and Southern a significant level of influence over the water companies.

The references follow a similar MMC probe into the merger of three London water companies to create Three Valley Water announced last summer. The MMC last month obtained an extension of this investigation until February 12.

Southern itself said it did not believe the February 1989 share purchase that triggered the reference - which increased its stake in Mid Sussex from 14.8 per cent to 20.05 per cent - had in any way changed the role it played in the affairs of

Mid Sussex, and it had not acted against the public interest.

At the time of the purchase the water company's most recent accounts indicated it was below the £30 million asset level, said Southern. CGE was unavailable for comment.

Mr Chris Rowland, water analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, said

of Mr Ridley's latest decision: "I don't think it's any great surprise."

There are 29 local water companies, 28 of them with quoted stock, alongside the 10 privatized regional authorities. Mr Rowland said he expected that number to shrink rapidly over the next three to four years, to perhaps a dozen of the smaller companies.

Saur, another French water company, also has interests in both Mid Kent and Mid Sussex, but has escaped an MMC investigation. Its 18.6 per cent of Mid Kent is not thought to give it sufficient control.

Saur also has a controlling interest in Mid Sussex, although the Southern stake now under investigation serves to block any conversion to plc status. Saur bid for Mid Sussex, however, before the January 11, 1989, cut-off date set in the Act for any review of mergers in the water industry.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Tunnel groups to hold crucial talks on costs

The companies and banks behind the Channel Tunnel will be locked in a series of crucial meetings over the weekend in a bid to keep the project alive.

Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French group which hopes to run the tunnel, and Transmanche Link, the consortium of contractors building it, have still to reach agreement on the costs of the project, which are expected to reach more than £7 billion, £1 billion more than originally estimated. They are due to meet with representatives of Eurotunnel's 200 bankers on Tuesday. Eurotunnel said it was confident a deal would be reached.

Reed in £4m expansion

Reed International is acquiring the children's information and reference division of Macmillan Education and a 49 per cent stake in Bottom Line Publications for about \$4 million. The Macmillan purchase will become part of Heinemann and the Bottom Line stake, which is a monthly Canadian newsletter supplying business and financial information, will add to Butterworth's Canadian presence.

Japanese help for Polish

Yamaha, the Japanese piano maker and Sumitomo Life Insurance are to help finance the building of a cultural centre in Poland in memory of Frederic Chopin, the Polish composer and pianist. Construction will cost about \$18 million (£11 million), according to *Asahi Shimbun*, the Japanese newspaper. It added that Yamaha will put up \$2 million and Sumitomo \$4 million by buying shares to be issued by the centre.

MAS image warning

Malaysia's state-controlled airline faces serious trouble if it fails to check deteriorating standards which have marred its "golden service" image, Mr Ling Liong Sik, the transport minister, said.

Malaysian Airline System (MAS) has come under fire for flight delays, poor service and overbooking. MAS took delivery of two Boeing 747-400s last December as part of its \$5.5 billion ringgit (£1.23 billion) plan to replace its fleet of 42 aircraft by 1994. Analysts have forecast net profits for the year to March up 50 per cent to a record 229 million ringgit.

Diploma buys C&W quiet US company on sale talk

Cable and Wireless offered no comment on reports that it had sold a 15 per cent or \$600 million stake in Hong Kong Telecommunications to China's China International Trust and Investment Corporation. Cable and Wireless said it was in talks with the Chinese government to sell a 10-20 per cent holding at a price around the November average for the shares of HK\$4.55.

Chemists for AAH

AAH Holdings, the distribution and services group, has bought several retail chemists for \$6.4 million, to be funded by the issue 1.57 million ordinary shares and \$50,000 in cash. The deal includes Thompson's Chemists, with 14 chemists on Tyneside, Whitcross Pharmacy in Weston-super-Mare, Aron, and Prestons Chemists, in Whitley, Lancashire. The pharmacies, with assets of about £2.2 million, will be added to AAH's chain of Vantage chemists. The company said healthcare is maintaining an above-budget performance. AAH shares fell 10p to 415p.

Picking up pieces in Eastern Europe

John Redwood, the Corporate Affairs Minister, analyses how communist bloc countries can rebuild their economies in the wake of revolution and reform

It has taken a little over 140 years to discover the full cost of following the practical programme in Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto. The unacceptable face of communism was easiest to see in Czarist Russia.

There, a tyrant took literally the Marxist requirement to erode "the distinction between town and country" by bulldozing villages and rehousing people against their will in blocks of flats that made Le Corbusier look like an environmentally-friendly architect. Yet throughout Eastern Europe most of the 10 points of Marx's political creed were implemented, with serious consequences for freedom and for prosperity.

How can a communist state living through a democratic revolution set about rebuilding its shattered economy? It will not be easy.

It is tempting to think that if they do the opposite of all that Marx recommended that they will make more rapid progress. Yet that would be a little unjust, as Marx's tenth precept for social advance, the abolition of child labour and the provision of free education for all children has much to recommend it and also forms part of the liberal and social democratic traditions.

The other nine points, embracing various types of nationalization, the imposition of heavy taxation, the abolition of all private property and the establishment of forced labour

Large state monopolies have to be split up and opened up to new competition

small private firms is already many times that on equivalent collective farms.

The brave will go further. As the state owns so much land and property, it should sell it at low prices to the citizens so that all have a chance to own a holding as soon as possible. The process



The way forward: John Redwood sees the creation of private property as central for recovery

would mop up surplus savings that will otherwise prove very inflationary as the controls come off, and give many an incentive to till and produce more food which is desperately needed.

A parallel change could invigorate industry and commerce with the competitive and incentive-based drive of an enterprise economy. The large state monopolies have to be split up and opened to new competition. Businesses have to be sold into private hands rapidly, and a new generation of shareholders created. This, too, will help take surplus local currency out of circulation and restore the will to work, to invest and to innovate.

Hungary has already appointed a privatization commissioner who is charged with just such a mammoth task. Poland is actively discussing a similar programme.

Getting the national budget into shape is going to be painful. As each country applies

for IMF help and western grants and loans, it will face the reality of having to cut back severely on its expenditures.

There is no scope for higher taxes — they have to be lowered to compensate for the risks of enterprise as a new group of entrepreneurs is laboriously created. Food subsidies, housing subsidies, large payments to state businesses to offset their losses will all have to be scaled down or removed. Budgets have to be brought closer to balance, and schemes worked out to refinance or pay off some of the colossal outstanding debts. Each of the eastern European countries needs more foreign exchange.

They need to buy western technology and goods, especially for investment to begin to catch up on decades of missing technology. The wise eastern states will make their currencies convertible as soon as possible. The lesser-developed countries

partners. Some seek greenfield investment. In each case, asset values are low and basic costs like wages are also low by Western standards. The risks are more than reflected in the asking prices.

Britain can help with advice on how economies can be reformed and turned round. Eastern Europe is fascinated to learn how the UK turned the worst Western steel industry into the most efficient and profitable within 10 years.

It is keen to know more about the revival of east London with private capital, and the way our privatization programme created so many new owners, direct participants in the commercial life of the nation.

There are those who think the Berlin Wall has come down and the civil war fought in Romania because 12 countries in Western Europe have put together the 1992 programme. These same experts see our response to eastern Europe as a diversion from Western European political union. They have misunderstood the motive power and significance of the movements in eastern Europe.

Events there are driven by an urge to enjoy democratic freedom and a necessity to reform economies on liberal enterprise lines so that their people have enough to eat and a decent standard of living.

People are not coming westwards to enjoy the benefits of the Package Holiday directive or to harmonize their law-mower noise levels. They are drawn westwards by images of the Statue of Liberty, Macdonalds and Disneyland.

They require the adoption of a general programme of popular capitalism to bolster the new democracies. The West should help them on those same terms — by trading, advising and investing in the new wider Europe.

John Williams soars

The rationalization programme at John Williams Industries, the iron founder and property investor formerly called John Williams of Cardiff, helped boost its pre-tax profits from £41,000 to £277,000 in the year to end-September on turnover up from £18.9 million to £20.4 million. Earnings per share are

0.36p — against a loss of 0.59p — and the group is paying a final dividend of 0.5p after omitting the interim.

There was no dividend last year. There is also an extraordinary credit of £295,000 (profits from the sale of the Glen Metals Scottish subsidiary) compared with a debit of £55,000 last time.

Australia returning to favour with investors

By Angela Mackay

The Australian stock market is once again becoming popular with British institutions and fund managers after a year of disasters which rocked investors' confidence.

Sizeable buying orders have been placed with Australian brokers in London this week — against a background of optimism towards global stock markets — as fund managers reshape their portfolios after running down the Australian component during the past 12 months.

However, as in Britain, share shortages are hampering investors and driving up prices.

Blue-chip industrials have been popular with a wide range of British buyers, along with The News Corporation and Rothmans.

A fund manager said: "There is a feeling now that the worst is over. A lot of strong, well-managed Australian companies have been undervalued in the aftermath of Bond, Qintex (headed by Mr Christopher Skase), Ar-



Skase: chief of troubled Qintex and the Hooker Corporation.

While British and US stock markets have been touching new highs daily, the Australian All-Ordinaries index, at 1,710.8, remains 600 points below its record of 2,312.4 — touched in September, 1987 — implying that it lags behind rival exchanges.

In 1989, according to Morgan Stanley Capital International's world stock market indices, Australia was one of the worst performers with the market showing an 11.8 per

cent rise in Australian dollar terms, compared with 30.2 per cent for West Germany, 28.6 per cent in Britain, 24.6 per cent in the US and 37.4 per cent in Singapore.

On the upside, the FT-Accumulated World Index reports that Australia and New Zealand are the highest yielding markets at the moment with a gross dividend yield of 5.23. This week, the All-Ordinaries index has climbed from 1,654.7 to 1,710.8.

A stable Australian dollar and the perception that interest rates will start to fall before the Federal election this year have also helped to swing sentiment.

If rates edge down too sharply, it could make the Australian dollar vulnerable. However, a lower dollar would, in turn, increase the offshore receivables of commodity-based companies.

Some analysts point to an expected improvement in the gold market this year as another reason to look again at the proliferation of Australian gold-mining companies.

DTI backs drive to use better computers

By Nick Nuttall

Technology Correspondent

The Department of Trade and Industry is backing a new scheme to transfer neural networks — computer processing systems that learn and work more like the human brain — out of the nation's laboratories and into industry and commerce.

The project, code named "Linnex" (Learning and Insight into Neural Networks), aims to bridge the gap between researchers and companies keen to exploit the next generation of computer science.

"Neural nets" are expected to revolutionize the processing speeds and capabilities of everything from telecommunications, banking, trading systems and sales predictions to robotics, share portfolio management and industrial quality control.

The scheme is hoping to attract 24 members before its March 1 launch date. It will be administered by the research arm of Logica, of Cambridge, SD Science, of Camberley, and University College London (UCL).

Logica's Mr Clifton Hughes said groups to have shown interest in the programme include the Post Office, British Gas and the Civil Aviation Authority.

The DTI will disclose the amount of Government funding for the scheme in March, but the annual call to members is £15,000.

Enquiries: Mr Clifton Hughes, Logica, Belman House, 104 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1LQ. Tel: 0223-66343.

Bank cuts benchmark rate

Sydney (AP-Dow Jones) —

Australia's banks are forecast to cut their corporate lending rates in the next month after declines in interest rates in the domestic market. Analysts say that the big banks will follow National Australia's move yesterday in lowering its benchmark lending rate from 20.50 to 20.25 per cent.

Other big banks still charge their best corporate customers 20.50 per cent. Rates climbed to that level last September

because the government had been tightening monetary policy since April, 1988 in an attempt to dampen demand in the economy. But as signs continue to emerge of a slowing in the economy, credit markets are rallying in anticipation of an easing in monetary policy.

This has pushed the yield on 90-day bank bills to about 17.55 per cent from about 18 per cent a month ago. Although the central bank has

not yet eased policy, many market participants and analysts believe it soon will.

Mr Haydn Park, a spokesman for National Australia, said that Friday's move was in response to declines in short-term rates. He predicted that other banks will lower their prime lending rates within the next 10 days or so.

The bank's economists forecast that monetary policy will be eased sometime next month.

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AAE (300)	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
AAE (400)	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
AAE (500)	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
AAE (600)	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
AAE (700)	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700
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Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)
The World (free)	531.5	-1.2	26.8	-0.5	22.3	-0.6	14.7		
EAFF	153.1	-1.2	28.7	-0.6	22.3	-0.7	14.7		
Europe (free)	157.6	-1.1	20.5	-0.9	19.7	-0.8	9.0		
Europe (free)	163.7	-0.8	41.1	-0.6	28.6	-0.2	27.7		
Nth America (free)	164.2	-0.8	41.8	-0.9	28.9	-0.3	28.3		
Nth America (free)	532.3	-0.9	40.3	-0.4	26.8	-0.4	26.9		
Norvic (free)	1574.8	0.2	45.0	0.6	30.2	0.7	31.3		
Pacific (free)	240.0	-0.2	59.2	0.3	41.9	0.4	44.1		
Pacific (free)	355.3	-1.7	11.2	-1.1	15.1	-1.1	0.6		
Far East	562.0	-1.7	10.8	-1.2	15.0	-1.2	0.3		
Australia	355.6	0.1	21.2	-0.4	19.1	-0.6	9.6		
Austria	1636.9	-2.0	148.3	-2.0	114.8	-1.5	124.7		
Belgium	990.2	-0.3	28.2	-0.7	10.0	0.0	43.3		
Canada	598.8	-0.5	35.0	0.0	17.8	0.1	22.2		
Denmark	1307.4	-0.6	58.4	0.0	37.4	0.0	43.3		
Finland (free)	110.2	0.1	-4.9	0.4	-18.7	0.7	-13.9		
France	797.0	-1.3	24.3	2.9	9.3	3.2	13.0		
Germany	930.1	-0.9	48.3	-0.9	27.4	-0.7	34.2		
Hong Kong	2187.5	-1.4	14.2	-0.5	40.4	-0.3	48.0		
Italy	387.7	-0.3	32.3	0.0	15.5	-0.2	19.7		
Japan	5985.0	-1.7	10.2	-1.2	15.9	-1.2	-0.3		
Netherlands	927.2	-1.7	44.4	-1.5	24.2	-1.2	30.7		
New Zealand	105.0	-1.5	22.7	-1.2	16.6	-1.0	11.1		
Norway	1416.3	-1.2	70.0	-1.0	53.9	-0.8	53.9		
Sing/Malay	2027.7	-1.3	59.8	-0.5	41.8	-0.7	44.5		
Spain	236.0	-0.5	19.0	-0.4	3.8	0.0	7.7		
Sweden (free)	250.0	0.8	48.3	1.2	35.8	1.3	34.2		
Switzerland (free)	913.3	0.6	58.9	1.1	45.3	1.2	43.8		
UK	140.0	-1.3	41.2	-1.2	31.1	-0.8	27.6		
USA	728.5	-0.7	33.0	-0.7	33.0	-0.1	20.4		
WORLD	477.9	-1.0	40.7	-0.4	27.3	-0.4	27.3		

High street enjoys a late rise in sales at Christmas

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Sales at Christmas came late to the high street but were worth the wait. The start of the post-Christmas clearance sales has also been encouraging, although some "big ticket" items, such as hard furnishings, have not done well.

The picture of high street trading fortunes emerges from the results announced by the John Lewis Partnership, and reports from other retailers.

The John Lewis department stores saw their first jump in pre-Christmas trading in the week ending December 16, when there was a value rise of 8.6 per cent compared with the same week the year before. Netting out inflation implies a volume increase of just above 4 per cent.

The drop in trade previously felt right along the high street was reflected in the John Lewis department stores returns which in 18 weeks up to the beginning of December were up in value by only 1.6 per cent, well below the six-month estimate target of 5 per cent. It implies a volume decline close to 3 per cent.

But the last six days before Christmas, ended December 23, saw "a remarkable week's trade", said Mr Bryan O'Callaghan, director of selling for department stores. Sales were up 19.5 per cent.

The pre-Christmas week brought in £38 million but in the shortened trading week after Christmas, another £20 million went through the tills as the stores started their clearance sales. The value increase on annual comparison was 5.3 per cent which implies a volume rise of at least 1 per cent.

This was despite shortfalls in some big ticket sectors with declines in sales of upholstery and decorative furniture (37 per cent), carpets (16 per cent), cabinet and patio furniture (25 per cent) and fitted kitchens with bedroom furniture (nearly 7 per cent).

First reports coming in to the Retail Consortium, trade body for most retailers, also pointed to a marked uplift in sales in the last week before Christmas.

The retailers which are suffering are those specializing in the sectors where there is little buying — furniture and the bigger domestic electrical appliances. Electronic goods also appear to be having relatively unexciting sales.

At Sear's, which spans Selfridges, Olympus sports-wear and footwear, Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith, the chairman, said: "In the last two weeks before Christmas, our sales overall were very strong. There was a tendency for buying of sensible rather than frivolous items. The clearance sales are also very good."

Former BA manager for Sabena Airlines

By Philip Pangalos

Mr John Storey, previously general manager for British Airways in Africa, has been appointed marketing director of Sabena World Airlines, the European carrier.

SWA was formed last month as a joint venture between Sabena, the Belgian national carrier, British Airways and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. Sabena controls 60 per cent, BA and KLM each have 20 per cent.

Mr Storey will immediately start developing expansion plans for the airline's "Eurohub" system based on Brussels Zaventem airport. The aim is to build up the same-day "round trip" market.

Sabena aims to build up its European routes fleet from 19 Boeing 737s to around 40, and in April is opening new routes from Brussels to Budapest, Hamburg and Warsaw.

Between now and 1995, the company expects to take on 3,000 staff — from pilots to baggage handlers. SWA expects European air traffic to triple, with European destinations expected to rise from 49 to 75.

Mr Storey started with BA in 1961 as a commercial trainee and has held a number of senior management posts.

In 1985, he joined British Caledonian as executive vice-president, North America, where he was responsible for commercial, operational and administrative activities associated with the trans-Atlantic route.

COMMENT

Stake buying will keep water sector boiling

The Government's water privatization is over. Nicholas Ridley, the former Environment Secretary, Michael Howard, the minister who piloted the Water Bill, and Patrick Brown, the key civil servant, have moved on to other things. But a new phase of manoeuvring in the water industry is only just beginning. Far from being a dull utility sector, the new water section of the Stock Exchange list is likely to be in ferment.

The quick action by Compagnie Lyonnaise des Eaux, the second biggest French water group, to gain strategic stakes in two of the privatized groups — Anglian and Wessex — was but the first harbinger of things to come. More strategic stakes are likely to emerge as the privatized groups sort out their share registers and the implications of buying during confused dealings in the early days and the holidays are added up.

The privatized groups have five years grace before strategic stakes of up to 15 per cent can be added to without the Environment Secretary's permission. But that will not stop a series of manoeuvrings within the sector in a three-way game between the newly-freed water and sewerage groups, the three French groups and those old private statutory water companies that have not already been taken over by the French or by Biwater, the privately-owned water engineering company.

There has been a virtual embargo on bids for the statutory companies for about a year. This was at first informal — during the passage of the Water Bill. It was belatedly strengthened last January 11 by the Ridley rules, which ensured that any mergers between substantial water suppliers would go to the Mergers and Monopolies Commission.

That did not stop three private companies in north and west London proposing a merger to form Three Valleys Water. But others have waited until privatization and until the private companies had their price regimes fixed. "K" factors set by the Environment Department may not be finally fixed and announced for several weeks.

for Saur to realize its potential. Southern has similar blocking stakes in other statutory companies in its area controlled by Saur or Compagnie Générale des Eaux, having been unable to compete effectively with French bids before privatization.

Evidently, these stakes lock the French and Southern into a stand-off that invites some kind of closer relationship.

Already Saur has formed a joint venture with Southern to bid for local authority waste disposal contracts. It has a similar deal with Welsh Water, having built a strategic holding in a private water company in the Welsh Water area.

There is similar scope for deals elsewhere, notably in Wessex, where Générale and Lyonnaise own strategic stakes in Bristol Water, as well as in the Anglian, Northumbrian and Severn Trent areas.

One evident possibility is for French companies to swap strategic stakes — or later wholly-owned companies — for big minority stakes or special deals with the former authorities.

The referral of Générale's holding in Mid Kent, where a 29 per cent stake gives great leverage over future financing, raises two other issues. Générale could swap its stake with Saur, which has a blocking holding in the proposed Three Valleys company, which would otherwise fall under Générale's control.

Mid Kent, moreover, is one of the largest and most progressive remaining independent private water companies and therefore of great interest to Ian Byatt, the director general of water services, who has a duty to maintain enough independents to promote efficiency through the concept of "competition by comparison".

This duty gives another unintended advantage to the French companies, which had a free run in building up their positions before privatization.

There are only 10 sewerage companies — the privatized former authorities — so that any mergers between them would cut "competition by comparison" much more severely than a takeover of a former authority by a French group which only has interests among about 25 different water suppliers.

As yet, this corporate activity seems to account for little of the 25 per cent rise in the fully-paid value of privatized water shares since flotation. Welsh Water, which has a unique permanent golden share, is well up with the pack. Thus far, the partly-paid stock is enjoying another exciting life as a highly geared way into the ups and downs of a particularly volatile stock market. The sector is likely to stay as lively financially as it will remain politically controversial.

Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

Pitman stays on as Lloyds chief



Looking to the future.



Staying: Brian Pitman, chief executive, and (below) John Dawson, who steps down as deputy

The line of succession at Lloyds Bank has been thrown into doubt after Mr Brian Pitman, the chief executive, decided to stay on beyond his planned retirement in 1991 (Neil Bennett writes).

The move has forced Mr John Dawson, deputy chief executive and the man expected to succeed Mr Pitman, to step down.

Lloyds' board said it had asked Mr Dawson, aged 58, to stay on to complete the bank's restructuring in opposition to its annual policy of retirement at 60. The extension is open-ended, but sources expected him to stay for at least two more years.

Speculation flared in the City about Mr Pitman's new successor. Some commentators predict a struggle at the top between Mr David Pirrie, the head of retail banking, and Mr Paul Brown, the head of private banking and a former manager of Third World debt.

Mr Dawson is well-respected within the bank but failed to make a notable impression in public or in the City. He is only two years younger than Mr Pitman, and the bank decided this would not leave him enough time to fill the top job. He is staying as a non-executive director.

Mr Pitman will continue to refine the bank's financial services operations, including in Britain while rationalizing its overseas operations. He promised further disposals to help strengthen the bank's capital ratios. He said: "I'm in the middle of something here and I am staying on to complete it."

Blackman is named as CEEGB head

By A Correspondent

Mr Gil Blackman is to be chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board for the last three months before privatization. He has been deputy chairman since 1986.

This follows the resignation last month of Lord Marshall of Goring in protest at the Government's decision not to expand its nuclear power programme.

Lord Marshall was also to have become chairman of the new company, National Power, for whom a head has yet to be named.

Mr Blackman's appointment, announced by Mr John Wakeham, the Energy Secretary, was expected and is seen as that of an overnight watchman in the dying days of the board.

Once that happens, most of the remaining non-French owned companies will need to raise fresh share capital, opening a new season for deals.

Whitehall seems to have woken up to this, as ever, belatedly. Yesterday, the Department of Trade referred two strategic stakes built up after the Ridley rules to the MMC — on the last day available under the Water Act.

Southern Water's 25 per cent stake in Mid Sussex Water may seem an odd candidate since Saur (water subsidiary of Bouygues, the French construction group) controls a majority of the shares. But Southern's holding is enough to block Mid Sussex from converting from statutory water company to plc status under the Act, which it will need to do

Work starts on terminal

Construction of a £7 million, 8,350 square metre cargo terminal at Belfast International Airport, Aldergrove, began yesterday.

It will be the first airport in Ireland to be equipped with a computerized customs clearance and consignment tracking system.

Prospect leap

Prospect Industries, the Midlands engineer, lifted pre-tax profits 57 per cent to £740,000 in the year to end-September, on turnover up 16 per cent at £6.91 million. Earnings rise 69 per cent to 1.22p. There is no dividend.

Bonds award

Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley have been awarded the mandate to be joint lead underwriters of the World Bank's planned \$1.5 billion (£920 million) of global bonds.

API advances

Abbey Panels Investments raised pre-tax profits to £1.48 million (£908,000) in the year to September. Earnings rose 37.7p (22.4p) and the final dividend is 2p (1.8p).

No referral

Allied-Lyons' \$325 million offer for Dunkin' Donuts, the US food group, will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Jameel confident over car franchises

By Martin Waller

The Jameel Group, the Saudi Arabian concern offering £151 million for Hartwell, the motor distributor which is based in Oxford, has said it does not expect to lose any franchises with the big manufacturers if its hostile bid succeeds.

But Mr Samir Hamedeh, a director of Oakhill, the subsidiary making the offer, said it would not be "the end of the road" for the bidders if franchises were lost.

Asked if Jameel could use its links with Toyota, the Japanese car maker, to distribute its product in this country through Hartwell outlets if the bid is successful, he said: "It's possible. A lot of other manufacturers in the world would

welcome having those sites." Mr Peter Huggins, chairman of Hartwell, said: "Given the long-term potential for growing and developing the newly-enlarged business, we believe this bid seriously undervalues Hartwell." The Hartwell price fell 4p to 139p, 3p above the bid terms.

Mr Hamedeh said he had spoken personally to four of Hartwell's main suppliers. "There was no mention at all by them that franchises would have to be disposed of. There certainly was no threat of termination."

But a spokesman for Ford Motor Company said: "We have to say our franchise is strictly non-transferable."

Kingfisher offer approved

By Gillian Bowditch

Shareholders in Kingfisher, the retail group bidding £568 million for Dixons, have passed the special resolution approving the offer for Dixons.

Mr Geoff Mulcahy, Kingfisher's chief executive, told shareholders at yesterday's extraordinary meeting: "Our offer of 120p in cash is serious and generous to Dixons' shareholders in the light of our

exhaustive analysis of the Dixons' business. I cannot emphasize enough that we are not going to overpay for a business which cries out for a new management approach and is going to require considerable effort on our part to turn around."

The battle for Dixons is due to enter a new phase next week as the Office of Fair Trading makes its recommendation to Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade

Good stays on board at Norfolk

Norfolk Capital, the hotel group, has had a full account from Mr Tony Good, a director, regarding his knowledge of the proposals of Balmoral International Hotels. The directors have accepted his account and the issue of his resignation does not arise.

Norfolk is under attack from Balmoral's Mr Peter Tyrie, who has suggested that Balmoral, which has a 13.8 per cent stake in Norfolk, runs the business. The Norfolk board has rejected the plan.

There has been controversy over the position of Mr Good, who has a small stake in Norfolk. When Mr Tyrie launched his attack, sources close to Balmoral suggested he had Mr Good's backing.

EC and US at loggerheads in Gatt talks over world trade plans

Farm subsidies battle rages on

From A Correspondent

The American and European Community representatives to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade continued to clash over their plans to liberalize world farm trade at the start of a meeting of ministers in Florida, aimed at solving the problem.

The Uruguay Round of Gatt ends this year with the last ministerial meeting due on December 9. Trade sources suggest the current talks in Florida would mark the start of "a new harder edge to negotiation."

Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US agriculture secretary and Mr Ray MacSharry, EC farm commissioner, backed this view after attacking each other's plans. While Mr MacSharry insisted the EC's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), required retention of some government support to farmers and export subsidies, Mr Yeutter said nothing was sacrosanct and trade-distorting government supports should be eliminated. The two

ministers have taken part in informal talks with their Japanese, Australian and Canadian counterparts, covering food safety, food security and environmental issues.

Of the latter three members, Japan is most closely aligned to the EC, particularly on subsidies, while Australia and Canada — leaders of the Cairns group — want to see subsidies and supports abolished.

In the latest Gatt talks, the US has proposed eliminating export subsidies and internal supports over a five to 10-year period. It wants measures such as levies and quotas, like those imposed by the EC, to be converted to tariffs.

The EC accepts a version of the US proposal, but has countered with a controversial idea called "rebalancing", through which it can impose duties on products now free of duties, most of which are imported from the US.

Defending subsidies, Mr MacSharry said: "We are supporting 10 million farmers in the EC.... and maintain

our share of exports in the world market." He added the US should eliminate deficiency payments — the core of its income-support for farmers — if it wanted the EC to cut its own payments.

But Mr Yeutter said the US would not "unilaterally disarm in deficiency payments or anything else", since negotiations to narrow differences were underway and those supports would be used as bargaining chips. He said: "The EC is implying the US position is to do away with all supports.... our purpose is to rid the world of only trade distortive subsidies. We are prepared to alter some of our programmes, but the EC is unwilling. Rebalancing is not trade liberalization, it is trade protectionism."

But Mr MacSharry said the US deficiency payment system distorted world trade. The two sides also disagree on Japan's proposal that it be allowed to maintain subsidies for rice growers and retain a ban on rice imports, with the EC siding with Japan.

THE TIMES

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1989-1990

THE INDISPENSABLE ANNUAL
REVIEW OF THE WORLD'S LEADING
INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL
COMPANIES

Compiled by Extel Financial

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Slide continues

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 27. Dealings end January 12. \$Contango day January 15. Settlement day January 22.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at 4 pm. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where
one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Computer People	Electronics	
2	Amberley (Heavy)	Metals/Alloys	
3	Day Motors	Motor/Aircraft	
4	Appliance Hedges	Food	
5	Preston	Drugs/Stores	
6	McAlister (Alfred)	Building/Roads	
7	Pipes	Chemicals/Plastics	
8	Northanger	Electricals	
9	McIntyre	Property	
10	Comair	Leisure	
11	Smith David	Paper/Print/Adv	
12	Southfield	Chemicals/Plastics	
13	Adairson Corp	Electricals	
14	Hunter Super	Food	
15	Rothmans T (as)	Tobacco	
16	Low Group	Paper/Print/Adv	
17	Davis (Godfrey)	Industrial A-D	
18	Lancaster	Motor/Aircraft	
19	Blue Arrow (as)	Industrial A-D	
20	Stetley	Building/Roads	
21	Br Land (as)	Property	
22	Low & Brown	Industrial L-R	
23	Devies & Son W	Industrial A-D	
24	Sons & Roberts	Industrial S-Z	
25	Joseph (Longwell)	Bank/Discount	
26	Bank Of Scotland	Bank/Discount	
27	Br Mohar	Textiles	
28	All Food (as)	Food	
29	Provision	Bank/Discount	
30	Allied Collieries	Chemicals/Plastics	
31	Hickling	Textiles	
32	Parsons (Dunlop)	Industrial L-R	
33	Wang	Property	
34	Brook	Chemicals/Plastics	
35	Wesall	Industrial S-Z	
36	Gold Group	Paper/Print/Adv	
37	Newman Tools	Building/Roads	
38	RHM (as)	Food	
39	Burton (as)	Drugs/Stores	
40	Mackay (High)	Textiles	
41	Brammer	Industrial A-D	
42	Beckman (A)	Textiles	
43	Lays	Paper/Print/Adv	
44	Tesco (as)	Food	

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please write a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

SPORTS (Under Five Years)

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

UNDATED

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

INDEX-LINKED

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

BREWERIES

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

BUILDING, ROADS

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

FINANCE, LAND

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

FOODS

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

DRAPEY, STORES

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

E-K

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

L-O

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
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S-Z

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

HOTELS, CATERERS

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

INDUSTRIALS A-D

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
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INDUSTRIALS A-D

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INDUSTRIALS A-D

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
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INDUSTRIALS A-D

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
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INSURANCE

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
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LEISURE

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

MINING

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

OLDS, GAS

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

SHIPPING

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
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SHOES, LEATHER

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
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TEXTILES

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TOBACCOS

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
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WATER

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
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OVERSEAS TRADERS

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

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PROPERTY

1989/90	High	Low	Close	% Chg
High Low Close % Chg				

Ex Dividend a Ex as b Forecast dividend c Interim payment passed d Price at completion of Dividend and yield exclude a special payment e Pre-merger figures f Forecast earnings g Ex other f Ex rights h Ex scrip or share split i Tax-free No significant data.

Investment trusts
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Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 87.0 (day's range 86.8-87.0)

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Money Rates % Clearing Banks 15 Finance Hse 15%		EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %			
Overnight 10%	15 Low 14% Week Rend: 14%	Currency	7 day	1 mth	6 mth
Overnight 10%	15 Low 14% Week Rend: 14%	Dollar	8 1/2-9 7/16	9 1/8-9 1/8	9 1/8-9 1/8
Overnight 10%	15 Low 14% Week Rend: 14%	Cd 6% 7%			
Overnight 10%	15 Low 14% Week Rend: 14%	Deutschemark	7 1/4-7 1/4	8 1/8-8 1/8	8 1/8-8 1/8
Overnight 10%	15 Low 14% Week Rend: 14%	French Franc	11 1/4-11 1/4	11 1/8-11 1/8	11 1/8-11 1/8
Overnight 10%	15 Low 14% Week Rend: 14%	Cd 10 1/2			
Overnight 10%	15 Low 14% Week Rend: 14%	Swiss Franc	10 1/2-10 1/2	9 1/8-9 1/8	9 1/8-9 1/8
Overnight 10%	15 Low 14% Week Rend: 14%	Yen	6 1/2-6 1/2	8 1/8-8 1/8	8 1/8-8 1/8
Overnight 10%	15 Low 14% Week Rend: 14%	Cd 6-6			

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES											
	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
3-MO £100	90					Three month C&F	90.75				
50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	21894	May 90	89.77	89.78			Previous open interest 1934
50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	21894	Jun 90	89.77	89.78			89.07 89.50 75
Open Month Sterling						US Treasury Bond					Previous open interest 2587
50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	114891	Jun 90	96.00				
50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	4672	Long G&R					
Open Month Eurodollar						May 90	85.05				Previous open interest 2025
50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	21894	Jun 90	85.05				89.29 91.30 1948
50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	21894	Japanese Govt Bond					Previous open interest 889
50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	21894	May 90	102.05	102.06			102.05 102.06 117
Open Month Euroyen						German Govt Bond					
50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	21894	Jun 90	89.30				89.23 89.29 4454
50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	21894	May 90	89.30				89.23 89.29 4454
50	89.50	89.50	89.50	89.50	21894	Jun 90	89.30				89.23 89.29 4454

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FAMILY MONEY

Edited by Jon Ashworth

Investment trusts outpace the competition

Investment trusts easily topped the performance tables in the 1980s, outstripping all other savings products. Over 10 years, an investment of £100 would have grown to £354 in an investment trust, against £223 in a building society, £571 in a pension fund and £654 in a unit trust.

Regular savers, who put £30 a month towards an investment trust, would now hold £11,376 on average, compared with just over £8,500 in the best performing endowment policy.

The Association of Investment Trust Companies puts the success down to lower running costs, a policy of overseas investment, and a narrowing of the traditional discount on trusts.

Mr Philip Chappell, adviser to the AITC, said he hoped many more consumers would turn to investment trusts during the 1990s.

"We have demonstrated that we can significantly outperform the competition. Performance is more important than looks, and the record of investment trusts speaks for itself," he added.

J.A.

Jon Ashworth reviews some of the better performers of last year

Life companies turn in healthy 1989 figures

As the New Year picks up speed, life assurance companies have started unveiling their new business and bonus figures for 1989.

One of the more successful players last year was Standard Life, whose new annual premium business rose 26 per cent to £330 million. This was a modest increase on the previous year but the real success was in single premium business, which rocketed 136 per cent to £992 million.

The weak state of the housing market took its toll of mortgage endowment business, which slumped 30 per cent to £100 million. The best growth was in personal pensions. These were responsible for the huge new business rises the year before.

Annual premiums for individual pensions were up 135 per cent to £183 million. Single premiums advanced 65 per cent to £254 million. Mr Tom King, general manager (marketing) at Standard Life, said 1989 had been "outstanding by any yardstick".

Scottish Widows saw new



annual life and pensions premiums advance a modest 9 per cent to £202 million. Single premiums were up 73 per cent to £592 million.

The society has never been heavily dependent on the endowment house purchase market, so it was able to shrug off the fall in sales. Mr Frank

Attrill, general manager (marketing and sales), said personal pensions were still growing in popularity.

Sun Alliance saw new UK premiums rise 16 per cent to £315 million. Ordinary life premiums fell from £151 million in 1988 to £137 million last year reflecting, it said, the

continuing downturn in the savings market.

The society was also among the first to announce its reversionary bonus rates for 1989. On ordinary life policies, it is to pay a bonus of 3.5 per cent per annum of the sum assured, together with 7.5 per cent of the existing annual bonuses. For individual pensions, the bonus is 3.5 per cent of the guaranteed basic sum plus 7.5 per cent of existing annual bonuses.

Clerical Medical has increased its terminal bonus on life policies with terms greater than 12 years, while the bonus on those with shorter terms remains unchanged.

Guardian Royal Exchange announced unchanged reversionary bonus rates, and a slight rise in terminal bonuses. A typical 25-year endowment with a £30 monthly premium and a total £9,000 outlay would have grown to £47,935 by January 1. It would have been split between £8,383 in sum assured, annual bonus £14,382, and £25,170 as a terminal bonus.

Thai industry lifts Abtrust into top slot a second time

A boom in Thailand's industry helped push Abtrust's Far East Emerging Economies unit trust into top position for the second year in a row. It more than doubled investors' money in 1989, leading the pack of Smaller Asian funds which have strengthened their grip on the unit trust league.

An investment of £1,000 in January 1989 would have grown to £2,057 by the end of the year, offer to bid, according to Micropal. The fund favours the growing economies of Taiwan, Korea and especially Thailand.

Mr Hugh Young, the fund manager, said he favoured quality stocks in areas of high economic growth. "The strategy is simple and has remained largely unchanged since last year. We were always bullish on Thailand and when the market was

authorized by the Department of Trade and Industry, earlier this year, we increased our exposure."

Mr Chris Poll, managing director of Micropal, said: "This is the first time an individual trust has topped our league tables more than once and to do it in successive years further highlights the unique achievement."

Thailand presently accounts for 43 per cent of the fund's portfolio, followed by Singapore and Malaysia, with a total 10.5 per cent. Hong Kong makes up 9.3 per cent and 7.9 per cent is invested in Taiwan.

A year ago, Australia and New Zealand were the favoured regions, making up nearly a quarter of the portfolio. Thailand made up 22 per cent, followed by Korea with 17 per cent.

The fund, launched in April

1987, has tripled the value of units since then.

Top performer of the Eighties was Fidelity Special Situations, which gained 1,343 per cent, offer to bid. It was followed by MIM Britannia Japan Performance, GT Japan and General and Midland Japan Growth.

Star investment trust performer of the decade was Capital Gearing, which would have turned £100 into an impressive £2,624 over 10 years. It was followed by Drayton Far East, with a gain of 1619 per cent, and Fleming Japanese, which gained 1607 per cent. Even the worst-performer, Fulcrum Income Shares, showed a return of 233 per cent - in line with a building society ordinary share account.

J.A.

TOP AND BOTTOM TEN UNIT TRUSTS

Top 10	£	Bottom 10	£
Abtrust Far East Emerg Economa	205.69	Aetna Financial & Property	88.75
Prov Capitol Emerging Asia	185.81	New Court Sm Australian Cos	88.61
MIM Britannia Singapore ASEAN	187.30	Aetna Smaller Companies Growth	88.60
NM Singapore & Malaysia	182.22	MIM Britannia Smaller Cos	88.41
NM Japan Smaller Companies	177.35	MGM Special Situations Growth	86.17
MIM Britannia South East Asia	177.30	GRE Property Share	86.09
Abbey Asian Pacific	176.61	Royal Trust Smaller Companies	85.94
Wardley Singapore & Malaysia	172.21	Simon & Coates Special Sit	84.73
Royal Trust PPV Singapore & Malaysia	169.53	Windsor Smaller Companies	84.19
Schroder Japanese Smllr Companies	169.33	BG British Growth	77.52

SOURCE: MICROPAL

Finance industry refuses Nacab aid to advise debtors

By Rodney Hobson

More than twice as many people are approaching Citizens' Advice Bureaux with consumer and debt inquiries yet the finance industry is reluctant to fund effective advice services, according to a report published by the National Association of CABs.

Half the 117 finance companies, responding to a survey, said categorically that they were not willing to assist the development of the Nacab's Money Advice Service in the near future.

Nacab has had a 120 per cent increase in money queries over the past decade, reaching 1.4 million in the past year.

It adds: "We urgently re-

quire debt advice workers but estimate that it costs £20,000 a year to employ and accommodate one full-time worker. The National Consumer Council estimates a nationwide service could amount to £80 million a year."

The Nacab says it sought government funding in June. It has not yet received a response but the Government has indicated that responsibility for funding should lie with the private sector.

However, half the companies responding to a Nacab survey said they were not interested in providing funding, mainly because it was not seen as their responsibility to do so. Of those companies that had had dealings with advice agencies on debt problems, under half felt the intervention had been beneficial to them.

About three-quarters of the companies in the survey provided assistance to charities and felt they had a social responsibility to do so. The Nacab said: "We are concerned that the funding of money advice is not seen by sections of the finance industry as part of this social responsibility."

A working party initiated by the Finance Houses Association and including advice agencies' representatives is due to report on providing for money advice.

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*All Trust performance figures to 23.90, offer to offer, net income reinvested. Source: Micropal. Over 4 years: Special Situations Trust +306.8% and ranks No. 2, Japan Special Situations Trust +307.5%, South East Asia Trust +159.5%.

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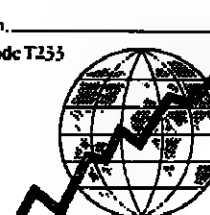
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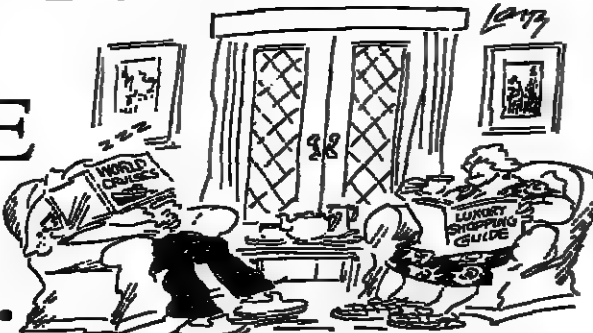
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FAMILY MONEY

Off-the-shelf unit trust
sales break into Britain

Mr Peter Tann must have had America in mind when he launched The Savings Corporation last year. For where else but the US would one find a company which does for the investment world what Kellogg's has done for breakfast cereals?

Savings plans cannot be eaten but buying them should be no harder than picking a box of Rice Krispies off the shelf at the local supermarket. And rather like cereals, a quick glance at the packet should be enough to tell the buyer whether or not it suits his or her taste.

Mr Tann may have had this in mind when he set up The Savings Corporation in June last year. Not only did he want to introduce American-style convenience shopping to British investors but he sought to back it up with enough products to satisfy most needs. Six months later, the company has 700 customers and a range of colourful unit trust plans to show for its efforts.

"We are trying to position ourselves as a small company, specializing in savings and making it easier for investors to pick their own level of risk," said Mr Tann, the group managing director.

"The vast majority of consumers, perhaps 95 per cent of the adult population, has never even thought of a unit trust. They associate them



Convenience: Peter Tann with the riskier end of the investment scale.

Some savers prefer to leave their money in a bank or building society. Others would like to take a more daring approach to investment, but are scared of plunging all the way into shares.

This is where The Savings Corporation steps in. Investors who want to keep their assets in cash can pick Harbour, a money market fund which pays a high interest. At the other end of the risk scale lies Zenith, a fund of funds aiming for capital growth.

Falling between them is a range of plans like Satellite, Windsor and Dimensions and a unit trust Pop, along with a scheme called Architect which taps into the other plans. The plans are linked to 14

unit trust funds, which cover everything from Japan and the Far East to Global Opportunities. There are two gilt funds, three UK funds and a City Reserve fund for cash deposits.

These may not be new, but the way in which they are packaged, is. For an investor looking for some stock market risk without losing all the safety of a building society, Dimensions could be the answer. For every £100 invested in the plan, £20 goes into cash, £20 into gilts, £40 into UK blue chips and £20 into overseas stocks.

Architect takes things a step further by allowing investors to vary the level of risk in stages. The first 40 per cent of the plan's length — say, four out of 10 years — focuses on high performance through the Zenith fund. The next four years would see a shift to balanced growth under the Dimensions plan. After that, money would be moved into Windsor for steady returns for a year-and-a-half, and the cash safety of Harbour would take over for the last six months.

Consumers may find themselves wondering how much they will have to pay for this kind of service. Most of the funds carry a 6 per cent bid-offer spread and a 1.5 per cent annual management charge, although this drops for cash and gilt funds. Savers can

withdraw their money without charge, but pay for switching between funds through a discount on the unit spread.

Marketing and administration are run from offices in Orpington, Kent, leaving City institutions to manage the funds. Kleinwort Benson runs the US, European and Japan funds, while Hambros Bank looks after the cash and gilt income funds. Other managers include Hendersons, Midland Montagu and Whitwicks.

As a new company in a crowded market, The Savings Corporation cannot afford to rest on its laurels. If using colourful tags to sell products is part of the picture, backing up clients with good after-care service is even more important.

The larger unit trust companies no longer have to establish themselves in the market — names such as M & G, MIM Britannia and Save & Prosper are all instantly recognizable. But with less than 5 million unit holder accounts in a population of 55 million, there is room for an inventive niche player. "They have failed to bring in the man in the street," said Mr Tann. "We would like to be able to serve thousands of people with all the attention of the corner shop-keeper."

Jon Ashworth

BR masks fares hike with 'extras'

British Rail, in facing opposition to its planned 9 per cent fare increases from February 4, is trying to cushion the blow by offering "extras" to those hardest hit — commuters.

A marketing campaign is under way to lure daily passengers with Network Gold Cards but the hard sell is aimed at annual season ticket holders. Anyone purchasing a Network Gold Card automatically gets reductions on leisure journeys. "The Network Gold Card is an attractive return for an annual investment," said

Mr Chris Green, director of Network SouthEast. "Annual season tickets including London Travelcards purchased at Network SouthEast stations are now automatically issued as Gold Cards."

"This means that in addition to unlimited journeys on the regular route, tickets can be bought at one third off the normal leisure fare."

Fares covered by the scheme include standard singles, cheap day returns, standard returns and Network Awaybreaks. Normal restrictions apply such as use after 10am on weekdays but there is complete freedom of choice at weekends.

Cashing in on the family market, the "Gold" holders can also obtain one-day Travelcards cheaper and on BR journeys four children can travel with a card carrying adult for £1 each. Commuters with Gold Card can buy a £1 "Partners Card".

Additions to the scheme include three adults travelling with the cardholder also getting the privileges and the opportunity to purchase supplementary first class tickets at £1 each.

passenger groups say they would rather see an end to overcrowding, and cleaner trains, especially on services into Waterloo, London Bridge and Victoria.

Next month Holborn Viaduct will close and trains will be diverted to Blackfriars because of the re-roofing of the Thameslink line to include a new St Paul's station.

Peter Brown

Plastic
debt cut
as credit
rates bite

By Rodney Hobson

High interest rates have, it seems, encouraged people to put their debts in order rather than run the risk of insolvency.

Even during the Christmas spending rush, credit card holders cut down their outstanding balances, the Finance Houses Association has said. The 45 association members account for 80 per cent of instalment credit outside banks and building societies.

Mr Michael Bliss, chairman of the Association's credit card group, said: "If consumers were simply strapped for cash they would tend to take longer to pay off their credit card debts, so obviously many borrowers are exercising greater control over their disposable income."

The majority of cardholders are paying off their debts over at most a three or four-month period, a trend the association expects to see continue.

Mr Neil Grant, association director, added: "Our experience is that people generally are borrowing less, which means they are probably tight for money. As well as having to grapple with sharply higher mortgage rates, some may also be concerned about job prospects."

Customers in the North and Scotland cut down on credit card spending by trading down to cheaper presents. Scotland, with lower wages, has been affected by the impact of the poll tax, imposed on people who formerly did not have to pay rates.

Borrowers have switched from credit cards to fixed-term hire purchase agreements repayable over periods up to 12 months. These are often interest-free or on low rates of interest as shops struggle to shift merchandise.

Mr Grant said: "So far we have been very successful in containing the level of bad debts on credit cards. But as the effects of higher interest rates take hold it would be unrealistic not to expect some increase in arrears over the coming months."

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FAMILY MONEY

Michael Goodman reports on the prognosis for the owner-occupier over the coming year

Recovery forecast for house prices in market awash with loan funds

In the long run, we will all be dead, said the currently unfashionable economist, John Maynard Keynes. The same finality cannot be applied to the housing market, a subject close to the hearts of many weary home owners.

In the short term it has been dead, or scarcely breathing, south of a line from the Humber to the Wash as the sharp rise in interest rates and the ending of double tax relief in August 1988 took their toll. In London suburbs properties are selling for 25-30 per cent less than asking prices.

In many cases, prices are back to spring 1988 levels, before the post-Budget panic buying of that year got underway. Buyers' moans about greedy vendors gumpzumping have given way to moans by sellers about "gazundering", as impermanent or canny buyers take advantage of market conditions to negotiate prices down between offer and exchange of contracts.

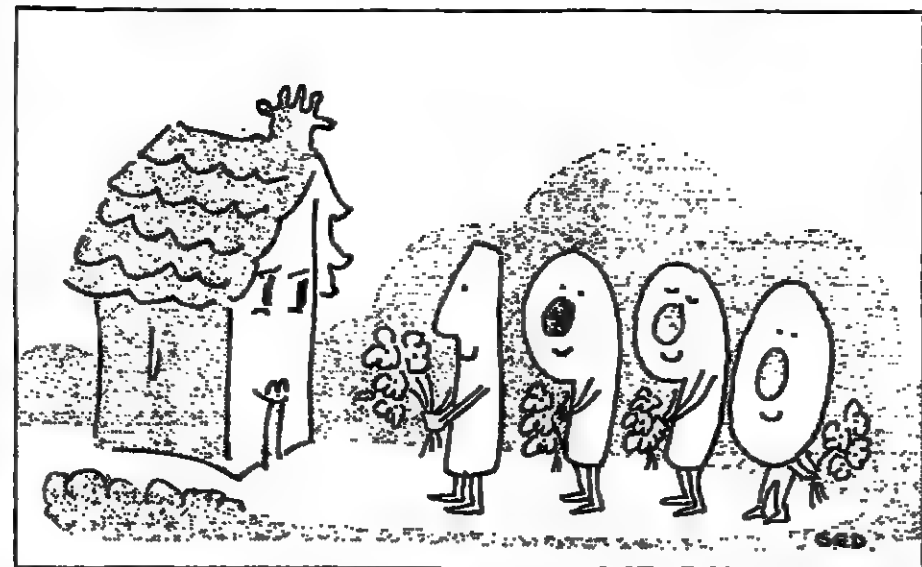
If we are to believe the Halifax Building Society, the housing market will come to

life again. The revival may even start this year in London and the South-east.

Mr Gary Marsh, head of planning and research at the Halifax, believes the market is not far off the turning point: "Many home owners in a few years' time will look back on 1990 and say 'that's the year we should have bought'."

As the largest building society and also as owner of a national estate agency chain, the Halifax has a vested interest in reassuring home owners, particularly when many of them find an uncomfortable large percentage of their income swallowed up in mortgage repayments.

There have been two other housing slumps in the past 20 years, in 1974-5 and 1981-2, both of which were followed by a strong recovery. In these slumps, house prices fell in real terms, even if they appeared to carry on rising slowly in money terms. In 1975, for example, house prices rose 5 per cent against a retail price rise of 25 per cent. This year, with inflation on



course for 5 per cent, the same real fall in house prices would mean a fall in money terms.

This has already happened in London and the South-east where, predicts Mr Marsh, the first signs of a recovery will appear. Prices will still decline this spring, then flatten out in the summer and start rising

gently by the autumn. By then turnover will have started to pick up.

In the Midlands the recovery will follow later, and in the North, where the boom came later and the slump was delayed, prices will gently fall. Taking the UK as a whole, the Halifax expects house

prices to fall by no more than 10 per cent this coming year. It will be a good year for buyers in the South, and it may be an easier one for vendors by the autumn. But in the North it might pay buyers to hesitate and sellers to be more realistic in their asking prices.

There is one crucial dif-

ference between the present housing slump and previous ones. Mortgage funds are plentiful, even though government policy tries to keep rates high. While lenders charge this "going rate" to existing customers, others lure new ones with special offers. The market place is more like a bazaar. But as in most bazaars, the bargains have drawbacks.

Some cut-rate offers to new borrowers have limited funds on a "first come, first served" basis. Fixed rate mortgages may be expensive to redeem, while deferred interest "low start" schemes roll up the debt so that monthly repayments at the end of the deferring period can be as much as 50 per cent higher than in the first year.

Buyers should beware of the complications of cut-rate mortgages and not be talked into the surrender of life or pension policies by brokers anxious to bump up commission. Under the Financial Services Act's "best advice" rules, a broker must take existing policies into account as part of a "fact find".

BRIEFINGS

Visitors to the Boat Show in London next week will see a new affinity credit card from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). For each successful application, the Royal Bank of Scotland will donate £7.50 to the RNLI. More than £175,000 has been raised since the card was introduced in 1988.

Skipton Building Society is launching a savings account to give smaller savers a taste of money market rates. Money Market Plus, available from Monday, will pay 12 per cent net interest on balances of £2,500 or more. Withdrawals are free with 90 days' notice. Tel 0756 700500.

A new Pep for the New Year has been unveiled by Guardian Royal Exchange. Stratagem, which is a unit-trust-only Pep, gives investors a tax-free way into GRE's growth equity and income funds. There is a 5 per cent initial charge, and a 1 per cent annual management fee. Tel 01-283 7101.

Barclays is raising its cheque guarantee limit from £50 to £100 for current account customers from Monday. The higher limit is available on a new version of the Barclaycard Connect card. Barclaycard can still be used to guarantee cheques of up to £50.

It is now cheaper than ever to buy a home in London's Docklands thanks to an equity share scheme which slices up to 50 per cent off property values. Abbey National Homes and Fairclough Homes have introduced the scheme for properties at Cylops Wharf, a waterside development on the Isle of Dogs. Tel 01-486 3555.

Lloyds Bank is offering first-time buyers a 2 per cent discount on endowment and pension mortgages. A 0.5 per cent loyalty discount is also available to existing borrowers who take out a new mortgage. First-time buyers could save £37.50 a month on a £30,000 mortgage through the deal, which runs until March 30.

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Discreet rise of home insurance annual rates

By Conal Gregory

The New Year is a popular time for insurance companies to quietly apply higher cover rates that will take effect at the time of policy renewal.

So, now is the time to check that cover is adequate — gradually increasing during the year to reflect higher building costs — and that the insurance is not founded on the wrong basis.

There is a popular misconception that a property needs to be insured for its market value as indicated by similar ones advertised in estate agents' windows. Where a house is destroyed, many householders think that the insurance company is liable for the amount it would have sold for.

Insurers do not use this basis, however. They work on the cost of rebuilding the property. So policy holders in arriving at their insurance figure should use the published recommended scale of rebuilding updated regularly by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), rather than by reference to a sale quote given to a neighbour by a local estate agent.

The Building Costs Information Service of the RICS uses four divisions for the UK — London boroughs and the Channel Islands, East Anglia, South-east England, and the rest of the UK which includes Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The latest rise in the re-

building costs is 11.03 per cent to November. This is the percentage increase applied to policies currently falling due.

A garage is treated separately. According to the RICS £2,150 should be calculated for a prefabricated single garage and up to at least £7,750 for a brick-built double garage, plus 11.03 per cent. A free leaflet to assist the calculation is available on written request with a stamped addressed envelope from the Association of British Insurers, Alderman House, Queen Street, London EC4N 1TT.

The age of the property can lead to useful savings on insurance. The owner of, say, a large detached modern house in Suffolk can expect to insure at a much lower rate than someone in a terraced Victorian home in south Wales. This simply reflects the higher costs of reinstating the property.

Often there is no cover for patios, terraces, swimming pools, septic tanks or central heating fuel tanks unless the home is damaged at the same time by the same cause.

If damage or loss is sustained when you are away for over 30 days, special conditions may be attached. But on the plus side, the insurance company will pay reasonable costs of comparable accommodation if your home is rendered uninhabitable and pay for any architects' or surveyors' fees.

GILT REVIEW

Many investors look to gilt-edged stock for high yields and security, but dividends are usually paid net of tax. As a guide, income on the following gilts is free of tax for residents abroad:

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Each 11% 1990	Treas 13 1/2% 1997
Fund 5 1/2% 1987-91	Treas 6% 1985-98
Treas C 10% 1991	Treas 15 1/2% 1998
Treas 8% 1992	Treas 9% 1999
Treas C 10 1/2% 1992	Treas 8 1/2% 2000
Treas 12 1/2% 1992	Conv 9% 2000
Treas 10% 1993	
Treas 12 1/2% 1993	Over fifteen years
Treas 13 1/2% 1993	Treas 8% 2002-06
	Treas 8 1/2% 2007
Five to fifteen years	Treas 9% 2008
Treas 8 1/2% 1994	Conv 9% 2011
Treas 9 1/2% 1994	Treas 7 1/2% 2012-15
Treas 10% 1994	Unlinked
Treas 14 1/2% 1994	War Loan 3 1/2%
Treas 12 1/2% 1995	Index-linked
Treas 9% 1992-96	
Each 13 1/2% 1996	Treas IL 2% 1992
Treas 15 1/2% 1996	Treas IL 2 1/2% 2024

Source: Greenwell Mortgage

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The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched and the table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. Value of £1,000 invested at the launch of M&G Recovery Fund on 23rd May 1969, with net income reinvested.			
Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	F.T. ORDINARY INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY
23 May '69	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
1970	1,176	857	1,080
1975	2,640	1,112	1,466
1980	10,256	1,729	2,154
1985	27,080	4,947	3,240
29 DEC '89	72,616	9,370	4,411*

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values. An investment of £1,000 in M&G Recovery Fund on 23rd May 1969 would have grown to £73,151 by 29th December 1989 with net income reinvested. *Estimated for year.

FURTHER INFORMATION: On 29th December 1989 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:

Inc	Acc	Yield	Spread	Max
RECOVERY	678-9p	955-9p	4-33%	5-44%
DIVIDEND	675-9p	2265-9p	5-24%	6-44%
SECOND	1092-2p	2369-7p	3-91%	5-66%

The prices are calculated as at 9.15 am each business day. Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. The spread is the difference between the offered price of 10 pence per unit and the bid price (which you sell). We have a discretion to vary the pricing basis of the units and also the spread within a range, calculated in accordance with statutory regulations. An actual charge of 5 pence is included in the offered price. The Manager's annual charge, trustee's fees, currently 0.05% (in the case of Second General 0.05% on the first £20 million of the Fund and 0.04% thereafter) and Registrar's fees, currently 0.08% (based on the fund's net asset value) are deducted from gross income pro-rata on the first day of each Stock Exchange account. The Manager's annual charge is 1% for Recovery and Second General and 1.5% for Dividend (which may be increased to 1.5% on three months' notice). Income for Accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and for Income units it is distributed net of basic rate tax on the following dates:

	Recovery	Dividend	SECOND
Distributions	20 Feb 20 Aug	15 Jan 15 July	15 Feb 15 Aug

Applications required by 22 Jun '90 18 May '90 22 Jun '90 for next distribution on 20 Aug '90 15 Jul '90 15 Aug '90

Higher rate taxpayers will have a further liability to tax. Non-taxpayers can reclaim the tax credit from the Inland Revenue. Corporate holders should consult their advisers. Capital gains tax (1989-90) An individual's first £5,000 of realised capital gains will be exempt from tax. Gains in excess of £5,000 will be added to the individual's other income and taxed at the rates of tax applicable to gains arising before 31st March 1985. An individual now subject to capital gains tax and gains since 31st March 1985 are subject to indexation relief. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Redemption proceeds are paid within five business days of receipt of correctly completed redemption forms. The Trustee for Dividend and Recovery is Barclays Bank Trust Ltd. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyd's Bank Plc. The Funds are all wider range investments and are authorised under the Finance Act 1986.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and aims to provide above average and increasing income from higher yielding shares.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. £1,000 invested in income units at the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 6th May 1964, compared with a similar investment in a Building Society.			
Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND
6 May '64			
1965	£40	£38	£1,000
1970	46	39	1,020
1975	83	72	1,076
1980	166	103	1,330
1985	228	87	1,616
29 DEC '89	444	91*	1,278

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society income figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Dividend capital figures are all realisation values. £1,000 invested in M&G Dividend Fund income units on 6th May 1964 would have produced an income of £78 in 1989 and the capital would have grown to £2,220 by 29th December 1989. *Estimated for year.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G SECOND General Trust Fund aims for consistent growth of both capital and income and has a 33-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies and expected yield in line with the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE. £1,000 invested in income units at the launch of M&G Second General on 5th June 1956, compared with a similar investment in a Building Society.			
Year ended 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G SECOND
5 June '56			
1957	£46	£34	£1,000
1965	77	38	1,172
1970	80	49	1,368
1975	155	72	1,608
1980	359	103	2,389
1985	549	87	2,580
29 DEC '89	1,007	91*	4,216

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society income figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). M&G Second General capital figures are all realisation values. £1,000 invested in M&G Second General income units on 5th June 1956 would have produced an income of £50 in 1989 and the capital would have grown to £2,038 by 29th December 1989. *Estimated for year.

Scheme Particulars will be sent with your contract note. However, if you would like the Scheme Particulars before investing, or the latest fund reports, you can obtain them free of charge from:

M&G Securities Limited, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Tel: (0245) 266266.

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Your certificate will follow shortly in entering into this contract with M&G you will not have any right to cancel the contract under the Financial Services (Cancellation) Rules 1983.

RECOVERY (MIN £1,000)	£	-00
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SECOND (MIN £1,000)	£	-00

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THE M&G GROUP

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If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £35 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st December 1989 your total outlay of £6,300 would have built up to £12,154. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in M&G SECOND GENERAL Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £33,298, an extra £21,144.

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PERFORMANCE FIGURES TO 1 DEC 1989

£35 A MONTH	5 YEARS from 1 Dec 1984	10 YEARS from 1 Dec 1979	15 YEARS from 1 Dec 1974
Amount paid in	2,100	4,200	6,300
M&G Recovery	3,434	14,488	33,150
M&G Dividend	3,135	14,209	40,326
M&G SECOND	2,430	11,344	33,298
Building Society	2,579	5,416	12,154

All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are all realisation values. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

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Please circle fund required: **RECOVERY** **DIVIDEND** **SECOND**

By signing this form you agree to the terms and conditions of the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan. I agree to pay the subscription amount by direct debit from my bank account. I agree to pay the subscription amount by cheque. I agree to pay the subscription amount by credit card. I agree to pay the subscription amount by cash. I agree to pay the subscription amount by any other method.

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THE M&G GROUP

FAMILY MONEY

Looking at life from the top



Rooting out discrimination: Jean Wood, about to become managing director at Manufacturers Life Insurance Company UK.

Life insurance companies are not known for their liberated outlook. So Manufacturers Life's decision to appoint a woman managing director at Manufacturers Life Insurance Company UK, its life and pensions subsidiary, may cause a stir in some City dining rooms.

But thoughts of traditionalists choking over their part do not bother Mrs Jean Wood who will soon be responsible for 900 Manufacturers Life salesmen and administrative and clerical staff at its head office in Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

Mrs Wood accepts that as the first woman managing director of a life company in Britain she will be seen as something of a curiosity. But Manufacturers Life's parent company is Canadian with significant business throughout North America. Some of the liberal attitudes, fuelled by draconian equal opportunities legislation in the US in the early 1970s, appear to have been successfully imported to Britain.

Nearly 20 years later, anti-discrimination laws have etched themselves into

Manufacturers Life's corporate consciousness. As well as a woman managing director, past senior female appointments have included a business administration manager, a reinsurance manager and a marketing director. But dark suits still vastly outnumber skirts.

Born in Scotland, Mrs Wood emigrated to Canada where she joined Manufacturers Life in 1974. "Women start making a name for themselves by having a speciality background in accountancy or law or development. People don't care if you're a Martian as long as you're an accountant. But it gets more difficult when you get into line management where the question is how you do the job rather than what you do. People ask, Will she survive? Will she cry? Will she get pregnant?"

Mrs Wood thinks role conditioning runs very deep even when men consider themselves liberated. Such attitudes probably generate as much stress for women managers as anything their career can throw at them. But 15 years of

experience in all areas of the life assurance and pensions business translate into a useful weapon for fighting the "Will she survive?" brigade.

"Building up time service is very important and sometimes women forget this," said Mrs Wood. Her own "time serving" roles include the development of Manufacturers Life (Canada) Group's pensions fieldforce and managing the company's pensions administration.

It is difficult for a high-powered woman to ignore discrimination against women in working life. Mrs Wood sees an important part of her job as being to examine all work practices and make sure there is no overt or covert discrimination. I think my being there has stamped out overt discrimination."

But her main concern as a managing director will be to make her company a commercial success and make a significant contribution to the Manufacturers Life Group. The fact that she happens to be a woman is important but incidental.

Sara McConnell

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FAMILY MONEY

Trend spotting in antiques

Small items, walnut furniture and maps will be among the best antique buys of 1990 says Conal Gregory

According to research by Gallup, more than 75 per cent of the public regards antiques as a good investment. After home improvements and a second home, antiques occupied joint third place with shares for popular investment.

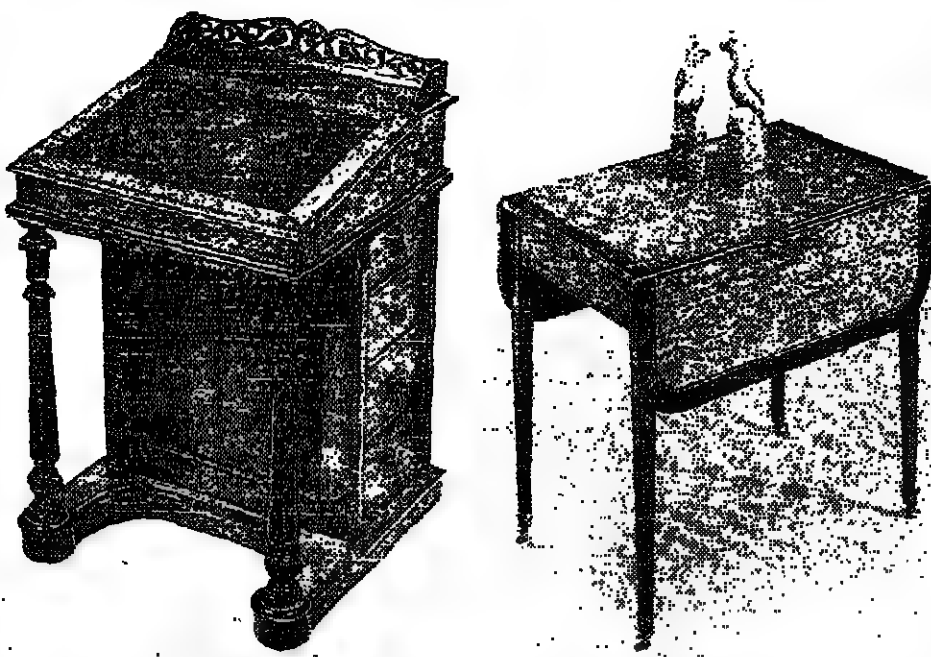
Pens and toys

Many of yesterday's household items are now very much sought after. Mr Duncan Chilcott of Bonham's Chelsea tips fountain pens, particularly pre-Second World War, and toys. A Parker Duofold Big Red, which cost £150 three years ago, makes £450 today.

Toys took off in 1970, after the closure of the Binn Road factory which made Dinky, Hornby and Meccano models. A toy saloon car of the mid 1950s sells for £60 today and even those from the late '60s make £15-£20. A pre-war set of seven camouflaged aeroplanes, costing 50p then, makes £1,600-£2,000 today. Ship models look cheap.

Dolls

Antique dolls are a buoyant market, particularly French and German makes. The 1890-1920 era is much in demand. Look for the character dolls of Germany and Jeanneau factory in France. A bisque porcelain head with paperweight-style glass eyes and real or mohair wigs fetch good prices. In February a blonde doll with painted blue eyes, made in Germany in 1909, achieved a world record of £82,000 at Sotheby's when the previous auction level was



Small is always beautiful in antiques: The simple lines of a Regency rosewood Davenport exhibited by Hallidays of Dorchester-on-Thames at the Park Lane Antiques Fair would not look out of place in the same room as the earlier Sheraton period satinwood and kingwood crossbanded Pembroke table shown by WR Harvey at the same fair. Prices for these items have always held because they fit into the smaller rooms of flats today. But larger pieces such as oak sideboards are staging a comeback with the trend towards the country kitchen look beloved of interior designers

£21,000. The doll had lain forgotten in an attic until the owner, a nurse from Sussex, decided to have it valued.

While Steiff teddy bears have reached very high prices, good English dolls, like Merrythought, are undervalued while plastic or celluloid dolls may be set to rise.

Sport and rock 'n' roll

Sporting memorabilia can be a good investment, particularly golf and cricket related. Look for pottery items and silver commemoratives. Boxing and tennis items have not reached the same levels, while racing watercolours look cheap. Rock and roll memorabilia is less predictable. Articles related to the Beatles and

Rolling Stones retain their value, but Phillips and Bonhams say that lesser pop stars may not be good long term investments.

Maps

Antique US maps and European town plans are tipped by Simon Pointer and The Map House, specialist dealers in Beauchamp Place, London.

Maps of Virginia, Maryland and Carolina of 1676 by Speed, which are decorative, costing about £500 five years ago, fetch £1,500 today. Look, too, for the Braun and Hogenberg first series of town plans from 1572. One of Hamburg, which cost £150 two years ago, commands £285 now. But Pointer gives a

warning against purchasing Australian or Japanese maps as demand is falling.

Furniture

In furniture, walnut is particularly strong. A mid 18th-century tripod walnut table costing £105 in 1968 sells for more than £2,200 today, according to The Antique Collectors' Club of Woodbridge, Suffolk, which monitors prices. Chappell Antiques of Bakewell, Derbyshire, confirms the surge in prices. A fine Queen Anne walnut kneehole desk, which cost £14,000 a year ago, is selling for £20,000 now. A set of six red walnut George II chairs on cabriole legs and pad feet made £6,000 a year

ago but secures £8,500 today. Oak has also seen a revival. Large sideboards, almost unsaleable a few years ago, now obtain good prices. Mahogany of good quality is tipped by many dealers with functional articles like wine coolers in demand. Michael Foster of Fulham Road, West London, recently offered a fine one of 1790 lead-lined, with slightly faded top, for £4,750.

Porcelain

In porcelain, figures are hard to find, according to Andrew Dando of Bath, a dealer who has his lowest stock for 30 years. While Worcester is doing well, noticeably shell and leather subjects from the 1820s, landscapes are less strong. He advises that pottery prices have stood still since their dramatic rise in 1988.

Silver

On silver, French stock is showing well and English is enjoying a revival. In October Christie's New York sold a 17th century bowl by George Garthorne for £182,166, almost double the estimate. Last month Sotheby's secured a world record for silver with a pair of George II three-light candelabras by Charles Kandler of London which went for £940,000.

In more modest silver, look for small spoons, snuff boxes, wine labels and vinaigrettes. Good reading for these are *Collecting Small Silverware* by Stephen Helliwell (£19.95) and *Jackson's English Goldsmiths and Their Marks*, by Ian Pickford (£45). Good advice and a wide variety of antiques are on offer at two antiques fairs shortly: the West London from January 18-21 at the Kensington Town Hall and 70th Chelsea Antiques Fair from March 13-24 at Chelsea Old Town Hall.

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Banks count the cost of £1bn student boycott

Many students have already protested against the Government's top-up loan scheme by removing their accounts from the banks that originally said they would participate.

They took their action even while the banks were considering participation, and the National Union of Students claims the banks' withdrawal just before Christmas was the result of pressure against the scheme.

Meanwhile, Lloyds, one of three big banks that stayed out of the scheme at the outset, has confirmed that it picked up a number of student accounts moved from competitors that had agreed provisionally to take part.

The scheme, to supplement grants with loans from a company run by the banks, was announced in November. The NUS immediately threatened to urge its members to boycott any banks that eventually participated. It asked student leaders and

members to give a warning to their banks, including Lloyds, of the consequences, and, as a show of strength, encouraged some students to switch to Lloyds from banks intending to participate.

About 100 students at Loughborough University in Leicestershire shifted their accounts in one day. A complete boycott would have taken £1 billion worth of business away from banks in the scheme and most of it would probably have gone to Lloyds.

Lloyds agrees it has gained other banks' student business but refuses to give the number of accounts. A spokesman said: "We would not wish it to be known. It is market-sensitive information. The transfers were not in vast numbers." But despite Lloyds' reticence, there were clearly enough to be noticeable.

The spokesman said Lloyds had stood apart from it on commercial grounds. Other banks were also worried that it

would be expensive to run, would generate too many bad debts and they also thought it would not make money.

In Scotland, where students have opposed the scheme more vigorously than elsewhere, the Clydesdale Bank and the Bank of Scotland, which had decided against participation, are known to have gained some accounts, but figures are not available.

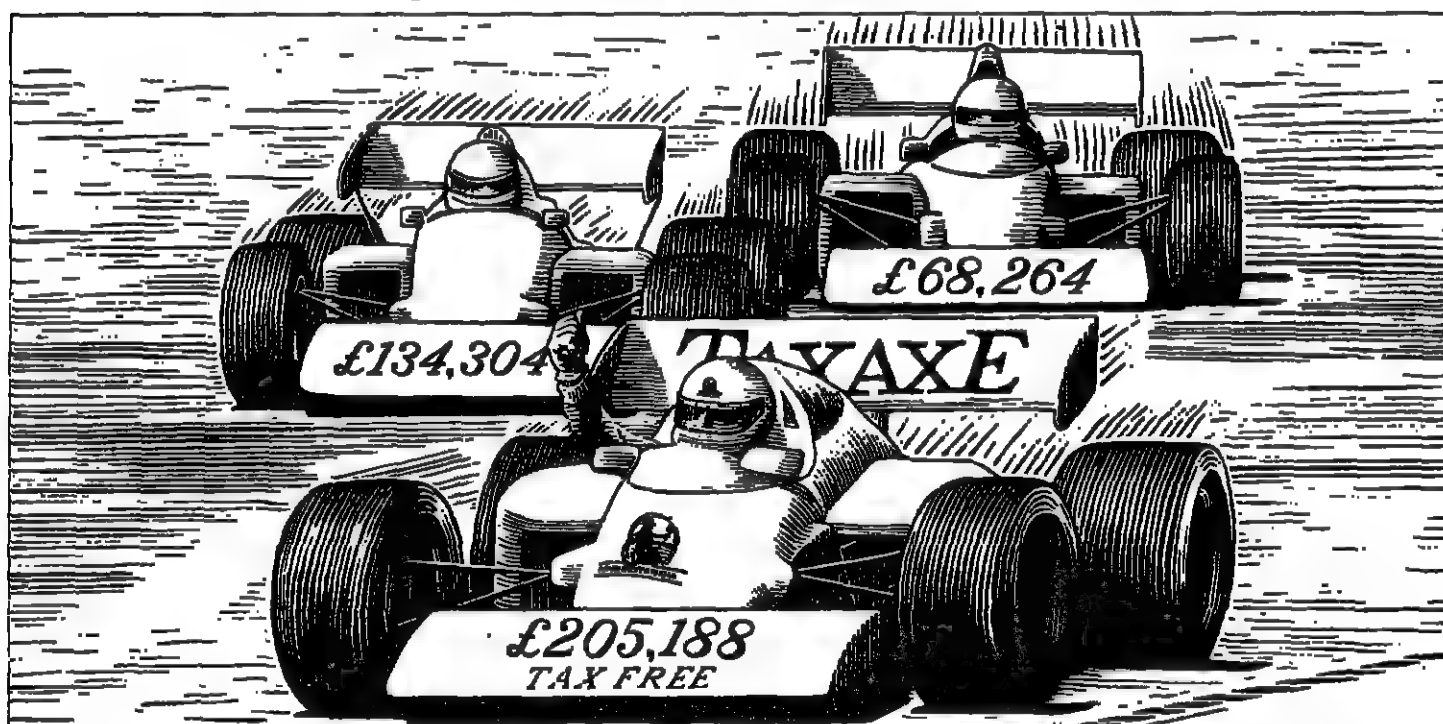
The company being formed to operate the scheme will be run by the Government instead of being owned and administered by the banks. Mr John MacGregor, the Education Secretary, has said the administration costs may be lower because the banks will not be involved.

However, Mr Tim Walker, of the NUS, says he cannot see how the scheme will work because the Government has always regarded the banks' co-operation as crucial.

Brian Collett

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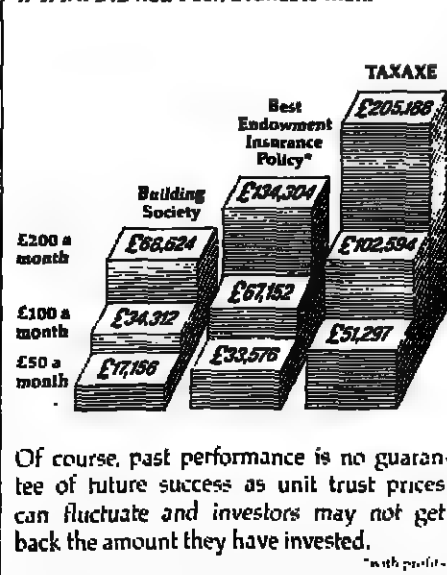
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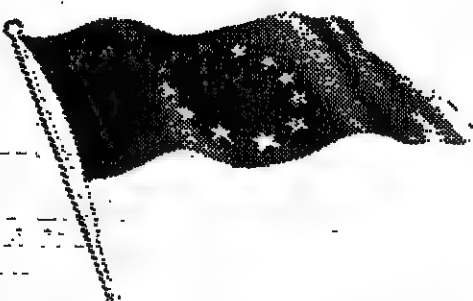
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From Watergate to Wall Street

David Brewerton meets the lawyer who went from looking for bodies in swamps to finding skeletons in corporate cupboards — a journey from Mississippi to Washington

High above the Washington traffic, a block or two from the White House, a small quiet man who helped change the face of US politics sits behind a large cluttered desk.

Terry Lenzner, a lawyer, has moved out of public service into corporate investigations — the man who traced the whereabouts of the Nixon administration's slush funds is for hire.

Those who would like to know more about his credentials but do not have the time to read the transcripts of the Watergate hearings, can take a short-cut and rent a video of *Mississippi Burning*.

Lenzner maintains that the young attorney depicted in the film is not actually based on him. But those who see the film one day and meet him the next might have their doubts.

It is easy to picture him as the young attorney, Alan Ward, telling his more experienced sidekick: "I want the entire area searched, every inch." The area is a Mississippi swamp, from where a car belonging to three civil rights workers has just been recovered.

Lenzner was just six weeks out of law school and getting the feel of his desk in the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, when he was sent to Mississippi.

Back in Washington, 25 years later, Lenzner is still having entire areas searched, "every inch." But no longer is he looking for bodies in a swamp, but skeletons in corporate cupboards.

Lenzner heads The Investigative Group, a business which has at its heart an enormous database, and a collection of individuals with inquiring minds and the ability to think laterally. The

computers can tell you who lives where, which number on which street, who drives what car and probably their tennis partner. There are Press cuttings from around the globe, from *The Times* to the most obscure newsletter.

Most of The Investigative Group's work is routine, little more than due diligence required in mergers and acquisitions, or gathering evidence for legal actions.

Detailed company investigation work is still relatively new and largely untried in Britain. Its cause advances only slowly, and is not helped by illegal and hampered surveillance, such as the "biscuit tin bug" buried beneath a telephone pole outside the home of a Woolworth executive when the company was last involved in a takeover battle with Dixons.

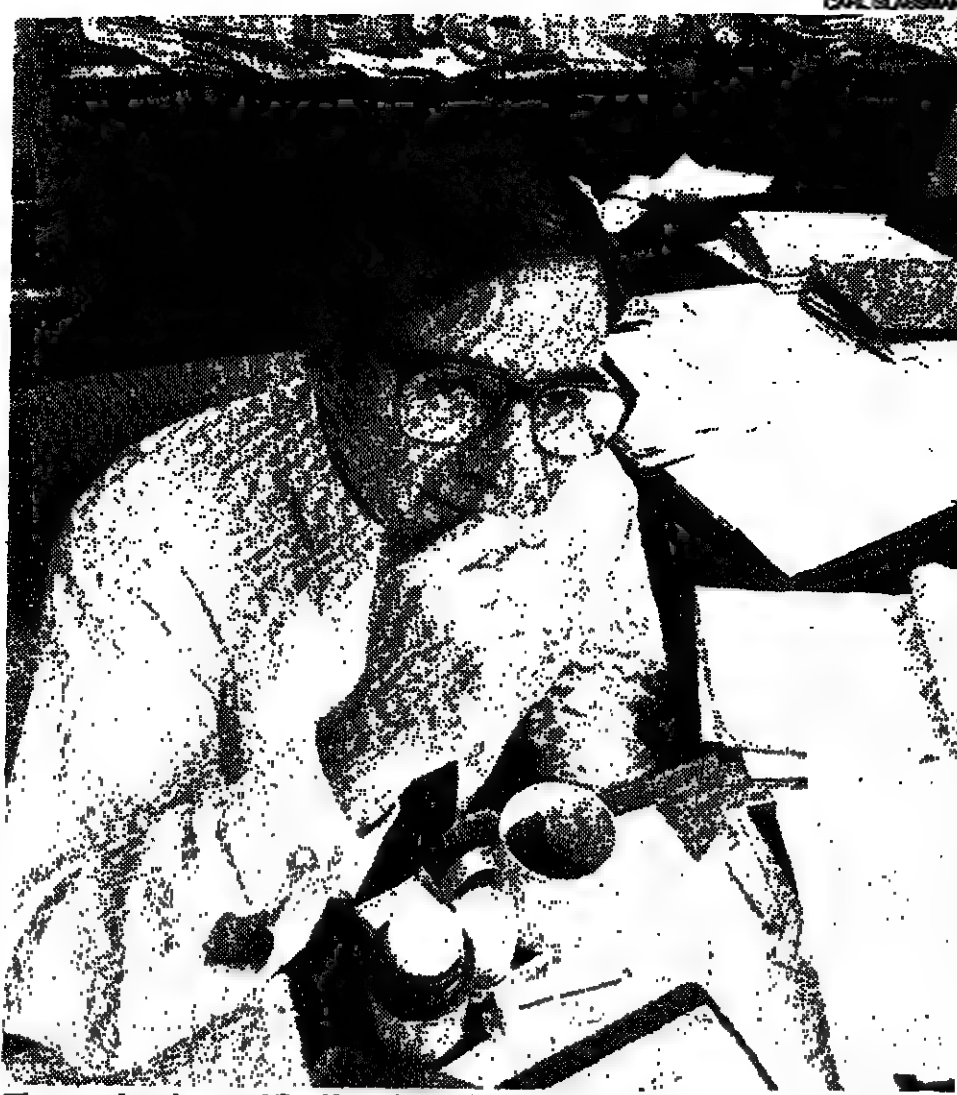
Lenzner, and a handful of upmarket competitors who have made company investigations legitimate business in the United States, are well aware of the damage that can be done by hole-in-the-corner downmarket sleuths.

Equally, they are determined to make sure their own operatives, a curious mixture of lawyers and journalists, do not step the wrong side of the ethical and legal divides.

"I worry about it all the time," said Lenzner, and the pots of pills on his desk suggest he is not kidding.

"My greatest nightmare is that one of my investigators will create a problem for the client. We do not seek information if there is an ethical problem."

"Ethics" in the case of the private investigation, relate to legality, rather than privacy. An individual put under the spotlight on behalf of a client



The man who subpoenaed President Nixon: Terry Lenzner, head of The Investigative Group

will have much of his life exposed to view. The state of his finances, whether his property is mortgaged, the clubs to which he belongs, his brushes with the law, whether he is being sued.

But the surveillance will usually be done from a distance, from the megabytes of public records stored, legally and above board, on Lenzner's computers or those of the authorities to which there is legitimate public access.

"Most people are not aware they are being investigated," Lenzner claims. A peak at the public record leaves no trace. The days of cigarette smoking, trilby-hatted, trenchcoated private eyes are almost gone — almost, but not quite.

Even companies such as Lenzner's have not totally abandoned interviews with friends and neighbours, tip-offs and paid contacts.

Lenzner is already making headway in Europe. His company was recently called in when a leading British company felt threatened by a United States takeover artist.

The accumulated file on the predator resembled a set of encyclopaedia. It contained highly damaging material, all of it taken from public filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and other bodies. The takeover bid never came.

Rarely is Lenzner able to disclose the identities of his clients, but one recent case where Lenzner and his team saved a client tens of millions of dollars has been opened up to public view.

The investigation surrounded a company called ZZZZ Best, one of those all-American stories which inspire every taxi-driver to believe he can make a million.

if only he has a good idea. The mythology was that a young teenager, Barry Minkow, borrowed his mother's carpet cleaner and built a \$200 million business in contract carpet cleaning before he was even old enough to vote.

At the end of 1986 Minkow's company, ZZZZ Best, was floated on the New York Stock Exchange. And he used the strength of the shares to buy other businesses. Lenzner was called in by a banking house planning to finance one of Minkow's deals. What interested Lenzner was not so much the state of Minkow's business, but who had bankrolled him in the first place.

Lenzner discovered the money came from two individuals. The first was connected with organized crime. The other had, under a previous alias, been convicted in New York of hijacking and

extortion, and was involved in credit card frauds.

Through contacts, it was discovered that the business was already under scrutiny by the law enforcement agencies. Lenzner's clients withdrew from the financing and officers of the company were indicted and convicted of a variety of offences.

"It was possibly a front for laundering narcotics money. The contracts for carpet cleaning were non-existent. When the auditors were coming by the company would rent a couple of floors of an office building and clean the carpets. When the auditors went, they would pack up and go."

Had the bankers relied solely on the accounts of ZZZZ Best, which had been audited by a top firm, they would have found themselves writing off substantial losses.

Shareholders in Ferranti International Signal, who have seen their company taken to the cleaners for some £200 million on non-existent contracts might wish that a company such as Lenzner's had been called in before the ISC purchase was made.

Lenzner's greatest hour, however, was not when he collapsed the fraud surrounding a West coast carpet cleaner, but when he was appointed chief counsel to the Senate committee investigating the break-in at the Watergate complex in Washington, a committee which eventually brought the downfall and disgrace of President Nixon.

Lenzner was already accustomed to rough assignments. He was a veteran of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and had seen service in Alabama when the civil rights movement was fighting its bloodiest battles with the southern "rednecks."

On that very first case, he had to come to terms with the unpopularity involved in exposing "a whole litany of excesses of police brutality," Lenzner and the Department of Justice were determined to bring it to an end.

It was, as *Mississippi Burning* reminds us, almost impossible to get convictions for those carrying out the institutionalized terror.

After a couple of years in the civil rights front line, where he became too close to other people's murders for comfort, Lenzner "ended up sleeping on the floor in motels, with the mattress over the window.

When it got to that stage, I figured it was time to get out."

After the hatred and the excesses of the Ku Klux Klan, organized crime almost appeared attractive. In New York, Lenzner got to work on the some of the most notorious families, and Godfathers went behind bars as a result.

The highway from New York led to Washington — and Watergate. "All we knew was that the Cubans had been convicted of breaking and enter-

There was a suspicion the prosecution had not plumbed the depths of Watergate



President Nixon: downfall and disgrace

ing the Watergate Complex. We also knew that (Howard) Hunt and (Gordon) Liddy had a White House number.

"On top of that there was a suspicion the prosecution had not plumbed the depths of the case. The judge made it clear in public he believed the full story had not been told."

But when Lenzner tried to enlist the help of other law enforcement officers to investigate the affair, "they just laughed at me. They worked for the Federal Government, and their careers were at stake."

"So I hired a bunch of young lawyers and people fresh out of law school," in addition to a couple of ex-FBI heavyweights with whom he had worked to bust corruption in the Teamsters Union.

What happened after that, they say, is history, a book and a movie. But Lenzner recalls drafting the subpoenas for Nixon's papers lying on the floor, because "there was no

space in that small office to sit up."

It was his mission to serve the papers on the President. "I was walking down the corridor of the White House. Everybody knew what was about to happen and secretaries were coming out of their offices and saying good luck."

Lenzner reveals that many of the White House secretaries had been sources of confidential information passed to the investigation.

In the early stages there was great public hostility to the investigation of the President, and there were moments when Lenzner feared for his life. But the mood changed. "The television reached into every corner of America. We began to receive telegrams suggesting questions to ask at the committee hearings."

But, although he could not help but make enemies in high places in Washington, "our investigations into the Teamsters money were more of a danger than anything to do with Watergate."

Corporate investigations do not pose the same kind of danger as mixing with mobsters, but Lenzner did not leave criminal investigations behind when he moved into the private sector. In 1981 Lenzner's company was called in to help track down a killer who had plagued the city of Atlanta, brutally murdering 28 young blacks.

It set up the computer program which combed through vehicle records, dog owners and a host of interview material looking for cross-references. Eventually a 23-year-old, Wayne Williams, was put behind bars, although to this day Lenzner remains convinced he was not responsible for all the killings.

But the backbone of the business has to be the corporate work, and this is growing fast. In the battle for BAT Industries, corporate raider Sir James Goldsmith of Hoylake climbed aboard his high horse when he learned that BAT had employed Kroll Associates to look into Hoylake. Goldsmith "explored" the use of BAT shareholders' funds to pay investigators.

Yet in the US, as Goldsmith would know full well, it can be regarded as irresponsible not to use investigators to search in the forgotten corners of public records when billions of dollars are at stake.

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A land that time almost forgot



Returning to New Zealand after an absence of 12 years, I stowed an item of ballast in my rucksack: a notebook copied the sign at Auckland Airport: "In other countries tipping is the custom. Here it is not." In degrees of sophistication I had compared fashion-store displays with the cave drawings of Levkas Man, adding that although *Vogue* had once published in New Zealand, it floundered fitfully before abandoning all hope.

Scientifically, I observed, New Zealand was Paradise; and in this Eden no harm would come to Eve, because if the serpent offered her an apple there would be no fear that she would bite into it. She would, conditioned by thrift and domestic servitude, bottle it or turn it into conserve to share with the family. To endorse these specious opinions I quoted from *The Passionless People*, Gordon McLaughlin's best-selling book: "The New Zealand wife lasts such a long time as a sex partner because she has so few moving parts."

The cautionary thing is that, on my return, I longed for New Zealand to have remained petrified in the aspic of these memories; for in a world committed to ideals of with-it-ness, the notion of somewhere to be a benediction, without it was a benediction. But if I, peripherally, knew what to expect, you may not; so first things first: a sense of perspective.

If the estimated human time on earth — two million years — were telescoped into 24 hours, European Man arrived in New Zealand eight seconds ago. Man himself has been there no longer than a minute, accepting the thesis that he was a Polynesian, a Tahitian or Rarotongan fisherman blown off-course some time between AD400 and AD700. The first time New Zealand appeared on maps was as a result of the landing in 1642 by Abel Tasman, the Dutchman, but it was to be another 125 years, after Cook's rediscovery, before Europeans gained a foothold on the Northland and Coromandel peninsulas. This was the early period of grog-shops, escaped convicts, ships' deserters and misguided missionary zeal; it was the time of Maori massacre and cannibalistic reprisals.

In 1840 tribal chiefs affixed their marks to the document known as the Treaty of Waitangi, and New Zealand became British. Or did it? There is relentless evidence to suggest that it really became Scottish: severe, humourless, Calvinistic Scottish of lower-middle class ideals. The first assisted immigrants to arrive in Auckland in 1842 were 500 unemployed Paisley weavers, and shipping lists of the time confirm

As Auckland prepares to play host to the 1990 Commonwealth Games, Michael Watkins makes a sentimental journey to the Land of the Long White Cloud, to find that New Zealanders are still the same — but different

that a predominance of settlers in this spell of intense growth originated from Scotland.

They were a dour, no-nonsense people: they had to be in order to convert a wilderness into some kind of order. It was, to an extent, achieved by ruthlessness towards the land. Markets for world trade were far removed, so farmers planned with spectacular efficiency to produce quality at low cost. It was the only way to compete. There was the rasp and whine of the saw, the cracks of the axe, the searing blast of bushfire as land was cleared, planted and grazed in no time at all.

If anything, it all happened too quickly, and it is necessary to appreciate this because it explains the apparent insensitivity towards development. New Zealand lives off the land, but it lives in the

cities: 75 per cent of the population, perhaps more, consists of urban dwellers passing their days in drab surroundings. They are drab because there was no time for the dignity and grace of an architectural style to evolve; cities and suburbs exploded obstinately, violently. Timber, sheet-astobes, corrugated metal for roofing; these were the materials used for housing.

The houses themselves were immaculate, scrubbed and polished with forensic passion. A million china geese spread their wings across the walls; pixies and gnomes squatted on rustic bridges over rustic ponds in rustic gardens; herds of Bambis gambolled up crazy-paving paths. Inside, the wife was bottling, conserving, baking scones, making tea for Kevin-her-mate and her 3.5 kids.



Empire day: a painting of the meeting in February 1840 when Maori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi, binding New Zealand to Britain

Kevin himself, up to his elbows in axle grease, was servicing their superannuated Morris Minor. As dusk embraced this scene of connubial sanctity, there was an effervescent hiss of opening beer cans as meat pies and Vegemite sandwiches were dispensed, while coloured dots on the house totem assembled themselves into the play of the All Blacks.

Those were the days, my friend, we thought they'd never end. But they did... and then again, they did not. As in every country with which I am familiar, standards come in multiples: one for the rich, another for the poor; one for natives, another for tourists; one for the talented and one for the cretinous. To see how the locals really live, you'd have to knock on their door in Wanganui. Most of us employ a more vicarious tactic: by leasing a car, a map and a sense of wonder.

It took five hours to drive from Christchurch, over the Canterbury Plains to Mount Cook. In the beginning was the word, and the word became Coca-Cola; but not on the way through South Island. There was not a billboard in sight, not a coffee wrapper or cigarette butt in the entire litterless landscape. The sheep hadn't changed, looking as daff as most sheep do. The town of Geraldine hadn't changed unrecognizably, its shop windows still featuring the kind of frocks that look as though they are knitted out of Heinz Sandwich Spread. Best of all, I had the road to myself: for Kevin is far too busy servicing his car to get much driving in.

The savage, heart-rending beauty begins to unfold at Lake Tekapo, at the edge of Mackenzie Country, named after a Scottish sheep-stealer who spoke only Gaelic. This is the gateway to the chain of permanently snow-capped Southern Alps, the highest of which is Mount Cook (known to the Maoris as Aorangi, "Cloud Piercer"), a primeval dyspeptic troubled by wind.

The Hermitage Hotel, in Mount Cook's shadow, hadn't changed hugely. Oh, there was a brave new reception counter, and dinner had a touch of the nouvelle cuisine; but the wine waiter's attitude was unswervingly Kiwi. "What's the house wine like?" I asked. "I couldn't say," he replied. "I've never tasted it." This reassured me, it really did. I can be soft-soaped around the world, but in New Zealand "packaging" means as they appear, there is no sense of mystery, little subtlety. It never ceases to amaze me that New Zealand cannot amaze me. And having come to that conclusion, I was amazed by a woman I talked to at an Auckland party who told

me she'd met Jeffrey Archer. What's he like, I wanted to know. "Well," she considered, "he was perfectly formed."

Queenstown was lovely and Milford Sound, when I arrived after a bus ride so long that I needed a haircut, was spectacular; but what I shall remember when I am eating my dotage bread and milk was the journey along the west coast from Haast Pass to Nelson. It was as Cornwall would have been before the petrol en-

gine. There were houseless hills, a restless sea clawing at black cliffs, water you could drink straight from the burn, and no sense of urgency — time was immeasurable. I dawdled, I slept well. With 70 million sheep to count, insomniacs are rare.

At Franz Joseph I flew up Fox Glacier, landing on snow, leaving my footprints frozen to the mountain. At Ross, not far from Harihari, a girl from the takeaway said she envied my travels, she

wanted to see Africa. Where, apart from Africa, was her favourite spot? The Abel Tasman Track, she said, it's three days' bush walk from Kaiteriteri. She was sweet and shy, and dished up a brilliant meat pie.

Although fishing is the most feeble of blood sports (with hunting and shooting there are elements of risk, but whoever heard of an angler being savaged by a rainbow trout?), I put up at Lake

Continued overleaf

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THE NED SHERRIN COLUMN



Eat, drink and pay taxes

Before we embark on the subject of 1990 there is one piece of unfinished '89 business. I have had 11 letters asking what we drank with the lobsters. It was a Corton Charlemagne '72 and it was perfect. So was Simon Hopkinson's tripe, which I finally sampled at Bibendum with three days of the old year to go.

On New Year's Eve I thought a lot about the Dalai Lama — not because of his brand new Nobel Prize and not because, like Kings Constantine and Michael, the decade may give him a chance of going home in style; no, I was wondering if his present junkies were anything like an old-fashioned Tibetan new year. The celebration of the Great Prayer Festival began with several days of eating, drinking, dancing and "all kinds of merry-making". The next 10 days quietened down a bit with religious services in the Great Temple of Lhasa.

On the twentieth day licence broke out again with sports, especially horse-racing. Magistrates took advantage of the stupefied citizens to collect some pretty hefty taxes. Frequent punch-ups occurred between the visiting Lamas and the locals. It is recorded that a "sizeable fortune" was raked in by the proctors from fines for "disorderly conduct" during the festival.

I offer it as a thought for David Waddington and John Major, should they still be Home Secretary and Chancellor next year and should the festive season stretch on so interminably.

STILL in helpful mood, I have been concerned for the unemployed. Not our 1.5 million Brits, but all those heads of government who have lost their jobs or may see them go in the near future. Rajiv Gandhi can return to the Beings as a pilot: "This is your ex-prime minister speaking, we are now flying at 35,000 feet." But he must remember to go on: "Fasten your seat belts, and not, 'Fill in your voting cards.' Ronald Reagan can do that final

remake of *Casablanca*, for which he was cast in the first place.

To East Germany's former leader, Erich Honecker, formerly a communist youth leader, I can only wish an unhappy second childhood. Ceausescu is no longer my responsibility, nor is ex-president Husak (Czechoslovakia), formerly a lawyer, who will be fully occupied looking for a very good one indeed.

General Pinochet should revert to square-bashing rather than peon-bashing.

If Mrs Thatcher fails to win next time, she has two possibilities. Will it be a Nobel Prize as a research chemist — "Duchess of Belton discovers the elixir of life" — or will it be glory and silk at the Bar — "I don't care how the jury voted, I am a majority of one"?

A final thought for Captain Bob Maxwell. How about being the next King of Albania?

JUST TIME for two of the most intriguing put-downs of last year, especially if you haven't heard them, I hadn't.

The first, unscripted, is aimed at Kenneth Baker, chairman of the Conservative Party. "I have seen the future and it smirks."

The second is theatrical — a conversation on Concorde. Albert Finney and Richard Harris find themselves sitting together. Harris opens a magazine and is confronted by an enormous photo-article on Kenneth Branagh. "What do you make of this Branagh fella, Albert?" he asks. "The trouble with Ken," replies Finney, thoughtfully pulling on his cigar, "is that he wants to be the next Dickie Astenborough."

ACTORS HAVE various contemporary synonyms for unresponsive audiences. This year West End stars are muttering to one another after a dull house: "Ceausescu's relatives were in." Not, I am glad to say, at the three theatrical events I have crammed in since we last met.

Hal Prince's great pageant production of *The Phantom of the Opera* is in fine shape nearly three years into its run. If the two



principals lack some of Crawford's mystery and Brightman's extraordinary fragility, Robert Meadmore's voice and panache are a huge improvement on the original Raoul. At the Comedy Theatre, the impossibly elegant Patricia Hodge and Simon Cadell combine to give the wittiest reading yet of *Noel and Gerrie*. When I did a Coward show in Connecticut in 1979 I heard a woman in the interval say: "Who was this guy Noel Coward? Was he

the one who collaborated with Hitler during the war?" No chance of that sort of double ignorance with the large holiday audience, who knew exactly what they were enjoying.

On Tuesday I presided over the seventh annual theatre quiz, RNT v RST. My scoring bimbo was Michael Gambon, the brand new CBE, and the most intriguing feature was Peter O'Toole's specially set round of sporting/theatrical questions. I am prepared to present two tickets for Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell to the first Times reader (not a member of Tuesday's audience) who can answer these two:

Which actor played wing forward as a wartime Oxford blue against a Micky Steele-Bodger XV?; and

Who played rugby at centre three-quarter for the British Fleet against the Swedish police in Stockholm in the early 1950s?

The prize will go to the first correct entry that I open on my return from foreign parts on January 19.

AMID THE melancholic crop of Christmas and New Year obituaries I notice with particular sadness that of Marjorie Westbury — for years the doyenne of the BBC radio drama, repository company. Marjorie's versatility was legendary. Her singing was as warm as her acting and, 30-odd years ago, she starred with Alec McCowen in the first radio play Caryl Brahms and I wrote together — a musical called *The Little Beggars*.

I AM excited about visiting Australia for the first time. On Tuesday we open Victor Spinetti's one-man show at the Sydney Opera Playhouse. Looking for advance information, I made the mistake of consulting my man in Deal, who was last there with the Navy in 1945 when large oysters were half a crown a dozen, when there wasn't a high-rise in the place and the pubs shut at six. The time between 5pm, when city offices closed, and 6pm was known as "the bastards' rush". He reports that the scene at five past six was not a pretty one. The beer was fine, the wine quite good, but "the gin burnt the woodwork — crook guts, sport!"

It is not like that now, so why is he telling me?

I did, however, like his story of a party to which he was invited in Melbourne. The hostess complained that some joker had written "Philip of Greece" in the guest book. Her touchiness was explained by the fact that a mobster in Sydney, much in the news at that particular time, was known as "Phil the Greek".

What she did not know was that Prince Philip and his cousin, Lord Milford Haven (who were both lieutenants in the Navy), had crashed her party. As it happened, Phil the Greek was shot soon afterwards. His nick-name was more wisely returned to the United Kingdom, married, and lived happily ever after.

Next week — dateline: Sydney.

FRANCES EDMONDS

If I were...

If I were Mick Jagger, of the Rolling Stones, I would be relaxing after the group's gruelling three-month tour of the United States and Canada. Idly perusing the British newspapers, I would chance upon a story about that other middle-aged rock 'n' roller, Paul McCartney. With growing interest, I would read of his exhortations to a packed house at the Birmingham Exhibition Centre to support the environmental pressure group, Friends of the Earth. I would sit, open-mouthed, as I contemplated his injunction not to vote for politicians who did not support policies for "a cleaner world".

And suddenly I would realize that the politicization of pop is nowadays where it's at.

After protracted negotiations and contracts worth telephone-number sums, I would promise to put the Rolling Stones at the service of Conservative Party Central Office. Never a fool or a hypocrite, I would realize that it is thanks to their acts of outrage and rebellion that today's rock-stars are multi-millionaires and, as such, part of the capitalist establishment they purport to despise. With this in mind, I would aim to redress the politico-pop balance with a nationwide, whistle-stop, "Stones-sing-Thatcher" tour.

Happily, I would recognize that most of our best material would need only minor alterations. As our



... Mick Jagger

personal tribute to the woman who has done for Tory machismo what Pol Pot did for the Kampuchean tourist industry, every concert would kick off with a rousing rendition of "Under My Thumb". Next, assuming that the ambulance dispute is still on, we would continue with Health Secretary Kenneth Clarke's old favourite "You Ain't Gonna Get No Satisfaction". And then, for all of Thatcher's children who did what they were told, bought their own houses and, as interest rates soared, found they could no longer afford their crippling mortgages, we would move into "Nineteenth Nervous Breakdown".

The usual quick dig at the opposition would soon follow with "Have You Seen Your Mother, Baby/ Standing In The Shadow/Cabinet For The Last Thirteen Years?" Then we would really get down to business, expounding the philosophy which will continue to underpin Conservative policy into the next millennium. "Hey, You, Get Off Of My Cloud" would explain that, in future, only shareholders in the recently privatized Rolling Stones plc will own assets previously believed to belong to everyone.

Finally, in modern Tory fashion, we would start hiving off the most profitable parts of our operation. We would sell the "Honky Tonk Women" to the House of Commons, possibly as "researchers". "Brown Sugar" would be exported to the European Community. And, bearing in mind the principles informing the Broadcasting Bill, we would put ourselves out to tender with the unmissable offer of "Let's Spend The Night Together".

Hannah...in from the cold

Her silhouette, struggling through blizzards in a spartan life, is well known. Now Alan Franks follows Hannah Hauxwell's new life



A long way from home: Hannah Hauxwell, who has left the privations of Low Birk Hat for village comforts five miles away

If you had not been told otherwise, you might think it was all a terrific affliction — this old woman from the Dales with the luminous skin, the saintly set of the features and the clothes from the pile which even the rag-and-bone man would probably not take.

You could swear you have seen her somewhere before, and your swearing would be justified, for in the past decade and a half Hannah Hauxwell has had a sort of greatness thrust upon her by the very medium, television, whose existence is the antithesis of her own.

She has been the heroine — there is no other word for it — of two documentaries which have become as internationally acclaimed as her own life has been parochial. Ever since she was "found" by Yorkshire Television in the early 1970s in the fastness of her Baldersdale farm, her life has been a century by the absence of electricity and running water ("That's not true. There's a grand stream"), she has become what might be called The Professional Daleswoman (although her farm at Low Birk Hat is strictly within the County Durham boundary).

It is enough to make you smell a rat and be damned for your cynicism.

Hannah Hauxwell is famous for being obscure, which, by definition, is a state of affairs that cannot last. She is one of those official curios so beloved by the British in the presentation of their living heritage — a Listed Person withstanding the erosions of the impure present.

The reality is not quite as straightforward. Producer Barry Cockcroft's latest book on his rewarding subject vaunts her as "unquestionably the First Lady of the Yorkshire Dales". Yet now, as *Seasons of My Life* sits in the bookshops with all the tele-led expectations of a Herriot or a Bellamy, Hannah no longer lives up in Low Birk Hat, that farm which pursued remoteness to the point of obscurity, and where viewers saw her holed up for snowbound winters with nothing but a camera crew for company. She has surrendered, climbed down, come in from the cold, sold up or out: call it what you will, this is where the story becomes interesting.

When I learnt that I was to see her, and before I had read Cockcroft's moving account of her departure, I braced myself for the very journey which has thwarted better stalkers than I with its skin of false scents and dead ends. For the whole of this little-known tale high in the Pennines is a cul-de-sac, you might pass to the south of

it on the A66 from Barnard Castle to Appleby, or to the north of it out of Middleton on the road to Alston.

The whole place almost sounds hollow with depopulation, and activity laid low. There is hardly the vastness of north west Scotland, and the clearance here has been the product of economic rather than military pressure; but it has the same empty resonance, giving a traveller the same sense of having arrived in the pub long after closing time.

Cockcroft has filmed and written eloquently about the changes in the valley, and Hannah herself is not stuck for words on the matter, as we shall see, even though there is one point on which her famous articulacy gives out, like the tarmac.

But we must now retrace our steps, away from the single-track roads along the shoulder of the moor, and the cattle grids and fastened gates and the herds of sheep which are put there to test a Londoner's patience by never getting out of first gear: down to Cotherstone, which is just five physical miles from Low Birk Hat, but none the less such a

fully developed village as to seem like a metropolis to someone who never strayed from the farm.

Forget the old woman bent double in a Biblical blizzard and lugging her kine in her wake; forget the timeless silhouette and its look of a nun with a bay rake.

We are now in Belle Vue Cottage, a small place which she bought last year after being forced to agree with her anxious friends that she could no longer cope alone at Low Birk Hat. There is a post office here, and a shop with petrol pumps on the forecourt, and a pub nearby whose patrons object when her visitors, of which there are many, come and put their vehicles in the patrons-only car spaces.

Cotherstone also has those two other prerequisites of the modern English village: a main road freighted with traffic and the scar of a disused railway line. Hannah Hauxwell has come a long way.

Without meaning disrespect, you could conclude from the look of the front room that she is here in body alone,

having parked her spirit in perpetuity five miles up the dale. It is the room of someone in semi-permanent transit, all boxes and wrapping paper and huge unmoored bulks of furniture which have yet to make an accommodation with the surroundings.

And the woman herself, in the grey afternoon light seeping through the front window, and the unbelievable rags, and her fine silver tresses of hair, this is Miss Haversham at her best of the electric age, with a single rung of fire doing its duty in the unequal struggle against a standard Dales winter.

She talks darkly of the dale, to which the body no longer goes back to join the spirit. "You cannot live all your life in one place and then walk away from it just like that. There's chains that bind. I did once go back, but I wish I hadn't gone. I didn't like it. It's a long and miserable story. My family had been in the house for generations. There was no time to sort out everything properly before I left. I thought that when the time came for me to leave, I would just leave the key in the appointed place, just as I had

always done, but it wasn't to be like that..."

But was she not surprised at how valuable her childhood home had become in today's prices? "I really do not want to talk about it. If you don't mind. Thank you. There's a man up there, a businessman I believe, and I know that he does not like it mentioned."

"Once I had decided to go, I tried not to think about it any more. I realized that it was not just the end of my time there, but of a whole life. I had caring relatives, and friends who had been going on to me for a long time, especially in the winters. I think there were two times that I went for three weeks without seeing a single soul. I suppose everyone was worried that I might fall down a ladder and not be able to get help or let anyone know that I was hurt."

"There's been a thinning out up there. The people have just moved away. Once it all seemed quite simple. There was a farm, and in the farm was a family. Now that's all changed. All the ownership, has altered. You get one person owning a lot of the farms."

"I think I was the only one

left in Baldersdale who carried on as I did, just by myself. When Mr Cockcroft made the film, I think it was just me. I know of neighbours who had a horse and a machine and that was it. I believe that if you look about hard enough you can still find others who are carrying on by themselves. Not in my dale, but in others. I heard from someone the other day that there's a woman somewhere who's doing it on her own. I'm not sure where."

The meals-on-wheels woman arrives with the lunch, and Hannah, who has lately been suffering from a virus, politely refuses to eat alone. Because of the seeming distance of the life which she describes, it comes as a surprise to learn that she is still only 63. If anyone should doubt that that life was hard, the mouth, which just occasionally puckers into that of a truly old woman, should give proof enough.

In his book, Cockcroft, after a vivid description of the sale of Low Birk Hat last year, by "an archetypal Dales auctioneer from Hawes in Upper Wensleydale, conducted with gravely skill," reports a fitting epitaph for the vanished ways. One parcel of the land is to be kept in exactly the way it has been for centuries by Hannah and her forbears, free of artificial fertilizers, and, as such, virtually unique in the area.

It is ironic that the post-script to his celebration should carry the very news of her leaving which is intermittently feared and hinted at in the course of the book until it almost hardens into an inevitability. At the same time it is peculiarly apt, since her departure has proved more eloquent about the engulfing of the past by the present in this neck of rural England than her staying ever could. Like the tarmac, it was the past's lot to peter out at this point on the temporal map.

If this extraordinarily ordinary woman does get a private frisson of vanity from her farm then here is a classy act of concealment. "I'm not a celebrity," she says with the levelness I was told to expect. "My assessment of myself is that I'm a plain Daleswoman. I'm just as I am. If I were otherwise, someone would give me a good shaking." The only betrayal of an idiom other than that of her own comes when she is asked what her plans are in this new life. She replies, surveying the chaos of effects around her: "I want to try and get my act together down here," and I have to say that it is delivered with not a hint of self-awareness.

Hospitality that knows its bounds

Continued from previous page

Brunner Lodge. Here it dawned on me that much of New Zealand is for sale; treaty notices proliferated. At Brunner I met Ian and Janet Wallace, who farmed 2,500 acres of sheep, cattle and deer single-handed. They'd had enough. It was killing them, profits were zero, they were getting out. They struck me as good people, industrious and resilient. Their defection from the land that reared them seemed an ill omen.

In Nelson Kerry Marshall, the Mayor of Tasman, treated me to dinner. Kiwis are very generous, I told him. "We're hospitable until foreigners start unpacking their suitcases," he said narrowly. He fretted about the economy, about New Zealand's place in the world. "We think about what happens in Whitehall, Washington and Bonn, but do they bother about us?"

France fell off the edge of the world, what would we do for Beaulais? If New Zealand went down, who would care?

From Nelson, I flew to Wellington, changing planes for Rotorua, which I have never liked: it smells. The Maoris, who virtually run the town, are proud of this smell, which put Rotorua on the map. The smell comes from the Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve, vast cauldrons of sulphur bubbling evilly like Brown Windsor soup, spurring, when they are so minded, 80ft into the air as geysers. It is terribly boring, yet the *pakeha* (non-Maori) enjoys all this hissing and plopping so much that his enthusiasm has turned Rotorua into a Las Vegas-style strip.

Another of North Island's heroically boring attractions is the Waitomo Caves, glowing grotto, where hundreds of thousands of worms simply hang there, glowing. Not that they have much of a life once they stop glowing and turn into chrysalides: apparently they are so designed that they have no orifice. Which would make them tidy house-pets, but means they cannot eat.

After the west coast, North Island seemed too much: too much traffic, too many people, too many waits informing one that the asparagus mouse had been garished with a sprig of dill and a tomato rose. (Gosh, if anyone had made such an announcement 12 years ago it would have been to the effect that the cod was garished with chips from the potato plant.) Yet this was only an optical illusion — as you would understand if you stopped your car and took in the mustardy blooms of kowhai, the red of rata, crimson blooms of pohutukawa,

the pale streamers of callistemon; if you listened to the clam of the tui, haunting notes of a bird which trail you everywhere. The reality is that there are far more tuis than humankind, an admirable arrangement.

This admirable arrangement finds voice in "She's right, mate", a Kiwi expression which could elegantly be translated into Australian as "No worries", or into quasi-Esperanto as "No problem". If you are of European background, and settle in the coveted Coromandel Peninsula or beautiful Bay of Islands, your situation is indeed right. If, on the other hand, you are a farmer, hotelier or stockbroker, the catchphrase might sound hollow. Farming we know about; excluding Auckland, average hotel occupancy is running at 50 per cent; while, since Black Monday, the stock market is a minefield.

The Maori's plight is another conversation in itself. To casual observers New Zealand has never looked better. All but the most pernicious of pixies, gnomes, geese and Bambis have been humanely destroyed. Restaurants and hotels — particularly the so-called "sporting lodges" — match international standards, while scenic splendours are second to none. Auckland is as Auckland was: too involved with its own setting, spread around twin harbours and a sub-tropical isthmus, to bother about externals.

Yet the Kiwi, obsessed with self-doubt, seems more insecure than ever. He has come to live with this neurosis as others live with plague, violence and cholesterol. Worries are a condition of his life; without it he'd be really worried. In other words, he is like the rest of us, a bit of a mess. Now, on top of everything else, he is worried about his age: he is 150 years old and feels duty-bound to throw a party. As well as mounting the 1990 Commonwealth Games, beginning on January 24, he is staging a Maori Festival of Arts and Culture, sheep-shearing contests, a food and wine festival followed by a *maree* (grass), and because he loves to confound us with his linguistic dexterity, the Turangawaewae Canoe Regatta.

The invitations are out and the Queen has graciously accepted. Yet I suspect that, in the Antipodes of his mind, the Kiwi doesn't desperately want a load of visitors cluttering up his landscape. He enjoys it the way it is, sparse. But because he is such a thoroughly decent sort, he will climb into his best suit, glue a smile into place and demonstrate the lavish extent of Kiwi hospitality — provided that we do not unpack our suitcases.

A CHILDHOOD: SIR PETER PARKER

'I was angry as hell when my brother died. We had done everything together'

Talking to Sir Peter Parker is a constant reminder that time is the elastic by which we measure our lives. To some people the elastic is taut and constricting; to Sir Peter life has expanded endlessly as new choices and fresh enthusiasms have appeared.

He might have been a professional actor or a high-flying politician. Instead he went with a vocation into management — most dramatically when he was chairman of British Rail from 1976 to 1983. At this moment he is, among many other things, chairman of the Rockware Group, Mitsubishi Electric (UK) and Whitehead Mann, chairman of the London School of Economics, visiting fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, president of the Design and Industries Association and a trustee of Friends of the Earth.

Now aged 65 and the author of an autobiography, when asked how he managed to cram so much in, he says: "It's to do with having the luck to be presented with 360 degrees of choice."

It is also, one suspects, equally to do with having an exceptional mind, extraordinary energy and adventurous parents. "Most people have lines on their paper which they follow through life," he says. "But we didn't. We tended to stake things out as we went along, and that gave me a tremendous commitment to family. I think my kids would say that, too."

Home as a child was wherever the family were. The youngest of three brothers, he was born in Dunkirk in 1924 where his father, Tom Parker, worked as an engineer for a French refrigerating plant. His father was from Hull, an impulsive tailor's son who wanted to go to sea and did; his mother, Dorothy, was clever and provided the stability and the deeper influence in the family.

He thinks now she could have been anything, "an ambassador, a headmistress, an actress... an extraordinarily old-fashioned mother figure with her three boys". Undoubtedly she must have displayed some of the qualities needed for all of these professions during Sir Peter's childhood — not least when his father was made redundant in the slump of 1931 and came home early from work one day to suggest the family go to live in China.

He was a great starter of new adventures, and off the family went to Hong Kong, en route to Shanghai. Even the outbreak of hostilities between China and Japan did not dull his parents' resolve and their ship pulled into the Huangpu estuary with bullets booming off the sides. Anyone who has read J.G. Ballard's *Empire of the Sun* (or seen the film) will be able to picture the Parkers' new life in Shanghai.

At first, while their father worked as an engineer up and down the Yangtze Gorges, the

Parker family lived cheaply in the Chinese quarter. But after a year he found a job as a resident engineer. With this new good fortune, the Parker boys attended the Cathedral School. "It was exactly as depicted in Ballard's book," says Sir Peter, "right down to my brother, Alan, and I cycling down the Nanking Road after choir practice in the cathedral."

The experience of growing up from eight to 13 in Shanghai never left him. His life was that of the privileged European boy, but he was aware that to the vast millions of Chinese life was appalling.

by Ray Connolly

In his book he states: "It was impossible not to be alive to the loneliness and suffering all round. Shanghai must have been one of the best schools in the world for revolutionaries", before adding that had he been Chinese and a little older, he is sure he would have done his best to join the Communists on the Long March.



Peter Parker, at the age of four

In 1937, the Sino-Japanese War in the shape of the Shanghai Incident abruptly ended the family's stability. Suddenly Shanghai had become too dangerous a place even for Tom Parker's kind of English family and Dorothy and her sons were evacuated — leaving, as they had arrived, under fire, now from Japanese cruisers which were shelling the shoreline.

After some time billeted in Hong Kong, the family reached England and took a flat in Wimbledon where Sir Peter still remembers going with his unemployed father to the public library to study the appointments available columns. Whatever his father might have had due to him from China now shrunk to disappearing point as the value of the Hong Kong dollar diminished daily, from 1s 3d down to 2d.

Eventually Bedford School took the two younger boys and, having failed to find anything suitable in England, their father set off for Africa with the promise that the family should join him. But the war intervened.

By now Sir Peter's eldest

brother Mickey was in the RAF. He was killed in February 1940. "I remember seeing the shock of sadness in my mother, seeing her holding a cup and then suddenly the cup was on the floor."

Although he had missed a year of school in the retreat from Shanghai, academically he had no problems and when the Government needed interpreters in Japanese, it was suggested he should apply for a state scholarship.

A day spent in London with his mother, lunch at Lyons Corner House, and aptitude tests along with some other very bright 16-year-olds, led him to being accepted as an "Orientalist". They were a group of 70 who were based at Dulwich College and attended London University's School of Oriental and African Studies during the day. Sir Peter was among the top group who studied Japanese.

In 1943, aged 17, he joined the Army (both brothers had joined the RAF) and was promptly shipped out to India. It was there a few months later that he heard of the death of his second brother, Alan, shot down over Caen.

Sir Peter was in Delhi when the news came. "I just couldn't understand how I hadn't known," he says, "because we were so close. I was angry as hell about it. I felt I ought to have known. We had done everything together. If he faints in the cathedral choir stalls in Shanghai, then I faint. But when this happened I didn't know."

He had lost both brothers to the war before his twentieth birthday.

In December 1944, while deep in northern Burma, he received a message ordering him back to Delhi "for overseas posting". The "overseas" turned out to be the United States and he found himself receiving a crash course in American management styles.

Already he had become interested in the work which was to dominate most of his life — management and leadership. In war a man will follow an order, because if he doesn't get out of the trench he will be shot. Obviously in industrial life there had to be another way.

He might have stayed in the Army where, as a 22-year-old major based in Washington, analysing and distributing captured material, he was having a marvellous time. But, as he says, "I knew at the time I was stark staring bloody ignorant, and it was time to get some education."

An Oxford awash with recently demobbed young people was the next step. He was offered a place at New College for 1948, but having lost time in the war he did not want to wait a year and decided to knock on doors.

It was a sunny day and there was nothing to stop him. Balliol and Trinity were not interested, nobody was at home at Brasenose, Oriel was encouraging and University College could not make a decision for 48 hours.



Sir Peter Parker: "It was impossible in China not to be aware of suffering. Shanghai must have been one of the best schools for revolutionaries"

Over lunch in the Mitre he asked the waiter what he could see through the window. It was the rectory's lodgings of Lincoln's College. He tried there. And by 4pm he was in to read history.

If success in life is also partly about networks, then Oxford provided him with just that. There was a love affair with Shirley Williams, there were political friends, academic friends, sporting friends (he was a keen rugby player), and finally, there were his friends in the Oxford University Players.

He was already fascinated by management and Labour Party politics, but now another career became a possibility — drama. As an Orientalist he had been friendly with Sandy Wilson (of *The Boy-friend*) who, a year ahead of him, now helped introduce him to a golden period in drama at Oxford. He played *Hamlet* under Kenneth Tynan's direction, with both Lindsay Anderson and John Schlesinger, and a doctored

Photograph by NICK ROGERS

tour of America. He was also doing poetry readings for the BBC — a guinea an hour which helped out no end with his meagre grant. And he had fallen in love for life with Jill Rowe-Dutton, a medical student. (They were married in 1951.)

He has no doubts that he could have made a living as an actor, but he had choices to make. He

wanted to be an MP and felt the Labour Party needed management. "I felt that if I learned my craft I could offer something rather than be just a hired politician."

When he stood as Labour candidate for his home town Bedford in 1951, he was not successful in a general election which returned the Tories to power. The choices led into the new science of management.

For *Starters: The Business of Life by Sir Peter Parker* (Jonathan Cape, £16.95).

The Just So Stories retold for the Nineties (1)

How the rusty Cortina came to rest in the Essex front garden

In the High and Far-Off Times, O Best Beloved, the Essex Front Garden had nothing in it but flowers, and beware of the Dog signs, and grass, and daisies, and hedges, and dividing hedges over which fence-temper broke, and gnomes, big gnomes and little gnomes and expensive gnomes and cheap gnomes and medium-size-mid-price gnomes.

Hear and attend and listen: for this befell and happened and became before the Rusty Cortinas came to rest in every Essex Front Garden. Once upon a most early Time, a Hosepipe was talking to a garden gnome.

"Gnomm of Gnomishness, O Precious Keespake from a forgotten holiday in Truro," said the Hosepipe. "The Essex Front Garden is a place of wonder indeed. The Surrey front garden may have more swimming-pools. The Gloucestershire front garden may have more Victorian-style all-purpose one hundred per cent glass fibre solaria. The Sussex front garden may have more reinforced surface all-weather Tennis Courts and the Kent front garden may have more Roads and Railway lines running through its centre, but the Essex Front Garden is Really Truly a Front Garden of which to be Proud."

"Tis indeed 'schusive, O Rubber-Tube-Through-Which-Water-Would-Pass-if-You-Were-Not-Riddled-with-Leaks, and I will now tell you why," said the Gnomm, "the Essex Front Garden is Super-



Upper-Most for it has a Little Bit of Everything and Each Little Bit of Everything has a Little Bit of Nothing."

"You speak in riddles, O Gnomm," said the Hosepipe. "What I mean is this. The Essex Front Garden has a Conservatory, but the glass has fallen out; it has a small bit of random gravel, but no tennis net to speak of; it has a Beware of the Dog sign, but no dog; it has a large puddle, but no diving board; it has a busy road at its gate, but only Chelmsford for a destination. It is all and nothing, Alpha and Omega, a triumph and a futility; it speaks to man in a language he may comprehend, O Hosepipe."

"But something is still missing," said the Hosepipe. "It is always a mistake to grumble without need, O little men everywhere." So saying,

the Gnomm flicked his rod for the trill-bill-millions time that day, still hoping to catch fishy-dishy-wishy-little-fishes from an empty shell



CRAIG BROWN

at his feet. "But if you feel that there is something still missing, we must together search for it, far and wide." And so embarked the Leaky Hosepipe and the Fishless Gnomm upon their quest, together with an Essex Rotweiler for protection from stray children. They scuttled for days and

days and days till they came after ever so many days and days and days to a Forest composed entirely of Service Stations upon Roundabouts. Here indeed, O my best beloved, was the Heart of Old Essex.

Said the Hosepipe to the Gnomm: "What has the Service Station to offer us, O Gnomm?" To which the Gnomm replied in Educational Verse, O My Best Beloved:

A is for Anoraks, on every one's backs
B is for Bee Gees, on all cassette racks
C is for Cuddly Toys, some going "Beep"
D is for 1989 Diaries, now going cheap,
E is for Electronic Surveillance, you have been warned
F is for Fluffy Dice, universally scorned
G is for Garden Furniture, in peach, mauve or grey,
H is for Honk if You've Had It Today
I is for Ice Cream, for the kids to spill
J is for Jumbo Burger, to make you feel ill
K is for Kling-Film, around a stale bun
L is for Lead-Free, have you had yours done?
M is for Microwaved Yummyburger, no good for you
N is for Now Wash Your Hands, sign in the loo
O is for Out of Order, sign by the phone
P is for Personnel, one slob, all alone
Q is for Quick Repairs ("Ooh, no, not Today")

R is for Road Map ("But it can't be this way")
S is for Surfboarders Do It Standing Up
T is for Tokens, 30 Gallons per Cup
U is for Unwanted Gifts, must find a buyer
V is for Video Nasties, for sale or for hire
W is for ELCOM, sign's lost a letter
Y is for Yorkie Bar, for the trucking jet-setter
X is for Xmas, closed all day
Z is for Zzzz, our staff, bright and gay.

The Hosepipe spouted and pouted and flouted and routed, so full of joy was he. "I'm scrupulously happy," he declared. "For discovered have I, O Gnomm, just the thing for the Essex Front Garden."

"It will offer shade to the squirmy-wormy-little-worm; it will offer shelter to the hurdy-gurdy-little bird; it will offer bedding to the housey-wousey-little mouse; and it will offer an Unfathomable Temptation to the snappy-crappy-happy-gappy-tappy-pappy-little-Exsex- scrap-dealer."

my Best Beloved, Rusty Cortina shed some rust and collapsed a door and burst a tyre in celebration. "You can't say fairer than that, squire," he said with a wink, adding "But I would beg of you to see your way clear to allowing the lady wife, Mrs Rusty Cortina, to accompany me, lovely lady," he added, a request to which the Gnomm and the Hosepipe acceded without demur.

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FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

A society defeats its own rules

DELHI
6 JAN
1990
INDIA

A heavy funeral gloom hangs over a village in Haryana, northern India. People are struggling to Satish Ram's mud hut, where his wife has just given birth to a daughter. They offer heartfelt condolences. Satish Ram, thanking them, sadly casts his mind forward 15 or 20 years, when practically everything he owns will have to be sold for a marriage dowry. A son would have been money in the bank. This screaming little female will make him even poorer than he already is.

Hundreds of miles to the south, in Madhya Pradesh, a moonlit landscape of rocks and white, the sun-bleached earth is teeming with workers who arrived with the dawn. They are bonded labourers — slaves by any other name. Prem Chauhan is one of them. Ten years ago he took a loan of 500 rupees (£20) from a landlord called Ram Singh. In return he labours 10 hours a day for a ration of rice.

Further north, this time in Delhi, it is early evening at a huge rubbish bin on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg. Five-year-old boys are scavenging for metal from the reeking garbage. Down the road they are working at a garage, fixing car tyres. Further afield in the tourist area of Connaught Circus they are cleaning shoes and dashing between smoke-belching cars and buses, selling cigarettes.

All over the city — all over India, indeed — boys and girls are hard at work, sweeping floors, washing up, toiling in factories and labouring on the land.

Still in Delhi, the evening rush hour has begun. Buses and trains are packed. A young woman screams and spins round to stare angrily at a grinning young fool who is groping at her body, not just a surreptitious little touch but an offensive, long-lasting lunge.

He is an Eve-teaser, an over-excited but not particularly dangerous breed of Indian male driven mad by the paradox of being granted mighty authority over women except when it comes to the mysterious, terrifying and taboo matter of sex. Eve-teasing, an expression that many women regard as pejorative, has been banned by law in Delhi, so endemic has it become.

These little vignettes of Indian life, repeated countless times every day in every corner of the land, illustrate a simple, incontrovertible fact: legislation against some

of the world's most entrenched prejudice, humiliation, cruelty, human degradation and institutionalized robbery is a farce, an annoying little fly to be swatted. Regardless of a battery of laws, life goes timelessly on, unflustered and unchanged by eruptions of rage from educated Indians fighting a near-betwixt struggle to put a human face on a society that can seem so monstrously insulting not only to a foreigner's eye, but also to an Indian's.

The baby girl just born to Satish Ram will be put to work as soon as she is able to clean, fetch and cook. She will not attend school. When a husband has been found she will move away for the first time, a submissive, downtrodden creature, who will fall under her mother-in-law's unassailable authority in the shared home.

The family might return time and again to the girl's father for more dowry money — although dowry is illegal — because the first crippling handout was not, in retrospect, enough. If the money is not forthcoming, the girl might be beaten, worked half to death, underfed — or burned alive.

Satish Ram's biggest regret is that he did not have the means to submit his wife to an amniocentesis test, widely used in India solely to determine if the foetus is female, although that practice, too, is illegal. If the child in the womb is female, an abortion is performed. Additionally, newborn girls are often deliberately neglected so that they will die. The net result is that there are today about 1,000 males for every 900 females in India.

Satish Ram's daughter will marry into terrifying uncertainty. Her in-laws may cruelly abuse her or warmly embrace her. Millions are unlucky. Delhi police have a special unit called the Crimes Against Women Cell, which registered 2,344 cases of family abuse in 1988 alone. Nearly 1,000 of them concerned women who had been set alight in revenge for inadequate dowry payments.

Satish Ram, still bemoaning the arrival of a daughter, can draw not an ounce of hope from the Dowry Prohibition Act, passed in 1961 and tightened in 1984 and 1986. When the time comes to marry off his daughter, he will have to pay. So the law, for Satish Ram, does not exist.

Assume, for a moment, that he decided to lodge a complaint against a dowry-demanding family. If he managed to find his way through the usual bureaucratic

Parents in India fear the future when a daughter is born. Christopher Thomas tells how women and workers remain oppressed despite the new legislation

ROBIN JACKSON



labyrinth — no doubt having to pay bribes along the way — he might actually manage to submit the required mountain of paperwork to the appropriate court.

But he is illiterate, so he would have to employ expensive help. Then it would be at least two years before the case was heard, given the ponderous, overburdened nature of the Indian judiciary.

Finally, the day is appointed. Satish Ram puts on a clean cloth, stands erect and terrified in court, and is told some gibberish about the case being adjourned *sine die* because the accused party has not turned up. By now, Satish Ram

would have incurred the wrath of his own daughter and, what is more, of his village. His daughter would regard dowry as her right, her security, the only inheritance she may ever get, despite a law that entitles her to a share of her father's property, near-worthless though it is.

From the iniquity of dowry, consider the horror of slavery. Tens of thousands of people are bonded labourers, their imprisonment made possible by unscrupulous alliances between bureaucrats, politicians and powerful landlords. The Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act of 1976 has managed to

free some people. A much larger number remains enslaved. A widow called Sonbai has been a bonded labourer for 40 years because her husband had taken out a loan of 100 rupees, equivalent to about £4.

DELHI
6 JAN
1990
INDIA

She receives a kilo and a half of rice a day when work is available. When work is not available, she says she lives off fallen grains picked from the fields of rich farmers. The government supposedly grants 6,250

rupees (£250) for the rehabilitation of every freed bonded labourer. An immediate payment of 300 rupees (£30) is meant to be made after the authorities hand the labourer a "freedom certificate".

Sita Ram, aged 15, was freed last year, but did not receive a penny. "My father was freed along with me, so they're saying only one person per family will get it," he said. The law, however, is explicit: everyone should be entitled to freedom money.

From bonded labour, to child labour. The law in this case is called the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act

1986, which lays down those jobs that children must not do. It is not meant to ban child labour, merely to control it. Children must not work with poisonous substances, make *bidis* (cigarettes), work in carpet-weaving or cement-manufacturing. They are banned from construction sites, ash pits, ports and railways.

It is all utter nonsense. Children work in every sphere. Not one prosecution has been brought. The National Policy on Child Labour reported to parliament a few years ago that employers found children agile, swift and able to sustain arduous labour for hours. Of 18,000 employees in 252 glass factories that were studied, 3,000 were aged 13 and under. No medical treatment was offered to anybody, despite the hazards.

The carpet industry employs vast numbers of children, mostly as weavers, because hand-woven carpets fetch a greater price than those made by machines.

According to the government's figures, more than 10,000 children work in the booming gem polishing industry. To start with, they are not paid at all. By the age of 14 they receive around £8 a month.

DELHI
6 JAN
1990
INDIA

And so, to end this litany of unfettered social ills, we take a look at a woman's lot. If she is educated she can edit newspapers, run government departments and rise to the heights of industry. The other 99 per cent of women sink beneath the surface of a man's world.

Almost furiously, an uneasy procession of women marched recently down Raj Path, the big wide avenue in the centre of Delhi, to demand "liberation".

Their cry for freedom was not meant in the Western sense. They were seeking only equal pay with men, not the broader rights of equality.

The demonstrators said they would march again and again, while steadily expanding their areas of protest. They hope, eventually, that a man like Satish Ram will be happy to have a daughter. Their voice is a tiny, inaudible squeak of protest in the deafening roar of tradition.

But perhaps, given time, parliament will pass a high-sounding law to take women out of their inferior position. It can then sit on the same dusty shelf as the laws governing dowry, child labour, slavery and Eve-teasing.

OUTDOORS

Ronald Faux on the singular lure of climbing mountains

As winter grips the high ground of Britain, glazing cliffs with ice and choking the steep gullies of Ben Nevis and its Highland neighbours with hard-packed snow, the 70 or more rescue teams that cover the mountain areas of Britain are standing by for an inevitable crop of winter accidents.

It is hard for the non-mountaineer to understand that when the hills are clearly at their most dangerous on these short, Arctic days, they are also most attractive to climb. On a crisp, winter day, old and familiar mountain shapes are transformed under a disguise of snow.

Valleys remembered as picnic spots in summer become potential targets for avalanche, streams that bubbled gently in July are frozen into baroque sculptures, and the simplest pathway may have a dangerous coating of ice.

Mountaineers have answered this challenge with some ingenious equipment designed to protect themselves and make a hard life easier and more comfortable. Of course, these improvements to safety are being used to make feasible the ever harder and more challenging winter climbs which is the way of all progress.

With around 30 deaths in an average winter and scores of injuries ranging from broken bones to cases of exposure, there is no doubt that this is a risk sport, although climbers will argue strongly that the risks can be minimized to an acceptable level — and that without some risk, the quality of the experience would be diminished.

Too often, the rescue teams say, climbers drive up from the south to North Wales, Cumbria or Scotland and feel they have to justify the journey by doing something when conditions make that unwise.

There is no shortage of advice on the weather a climber is likely to encounter in any of the mountain areas of Britain, although forecast may not always match reality, and in bad conditions British hills rival the Alps for danger.

"The Alps do not have a monopoly on avalanches or mountain storms," a mountain rescue team member in Aviemore pointed out. "What British hills may lack in altitude they gain in latitude, and we get some very severe problems in Scotland when a certain meteorological

Getting high on peril



Ice cream: special tools show their worth in the Cairngorms

formula happens. With more and more people out on the hills in winter, the likelihood of more accidents is bound to increase.

There have been four deaths already this year in Scotland and lesser accidents, a number of them involving "Munro bangers" — mountain walkers out to "collect" all the Scottish hills over 3,000ft.

In good conditions, the rewards of a winter mountain day more than match the

risks. At first light on a January morning the dark buttresses of the Three Sisters of Glencoe brood over the valley. The snow line is low, the cold intense, and stars are fading from a clear sky. Breath hangs as fog in the still air as we make the last adjustments to rucksacks packed with rope, axes, crampons, ice screws, and the modern ironmongery needed to combat a winter mountain.

Thermal socks, thermal underwear, quilted jackets and wind-proof "outer-shell" clothing and gloves blunt the freezing dawn temperatures. On the steep climb into the Lost Valley below Gairn Aonach there is an increasing sense that we are entering hostile terrain. The first obstacle is where a stream draining across the our path into a deep gully has frozen into an ice sheet. We strap on crampons, spiked metal plates that act like tyre chains on rubber boot soles.

The climb we are aiming for is a 1,000ft gully cutting into the east face of Gairn Aonach. The snow is hard and firm where it chokes the deep split and we move at first together, balancing the time saved and the security of experience and good conditions against the risks of being unroped.

For two hours we move like this in a slow rhythm of kicks and stabs with our ice axes, until a wall of black rock splits the gully and creates a steeper, more intimidating angle.

We rope together and apply the gadgets that pin one man to the ice, safeguarding the rope, while the other cuts across the steep ice-glazed section with some 800ft of gully plunging directly below.

Three firm, smooth moves on crampon tip and the angle eases. We are on safe ground again, but exhilarated by those few airy moves and successfully caging the danger.

In a short time we break out from the gully on to the summit to relax, coil the rope and admire the silent wilderness towards Bidean nam Bian, the regional Everest, which looks vastly more than its 3,766ft.

We are alone, the snow is untrampled, and in this polar calm we might be the first people ever to set foot on this summit. That, I suppose, is our reward.

Salisbury's race to the finish

Simon Tait reports on an ambitious plan that met its deadline — just

Although Salisbury Museum, on Salisbury and South Wilts shire, was founded in 1860 in the Victorian flurry of enthusiasm for museum building, it is a success story of the 1980s.

It was set up as an independent trust, based on the medieval and later material which was unearthed when the city's ancient drainage channels were replaced by proper sewers. But despite its important collections, especially the Stonehenge material, which was and still is of international significance, it dozed fitfully in St Anne's Street, little known and little visited, in cramped and decaying surroundings. In a good year as many as 7,000 people might visit it.

Then, in 1978, the trustees decided that was not good enough. "I think they realized the significance of the collections warranted better housing," says the curator, Peter Saunders. They looked to the most obvious focal point of the city, the cathedral, and found themselves the prospective lease-holders of one of the oldest buildings in the Cathedral Close.

King's House had been the Salisbury home of the abbots of Sherborne, and got its present name thanks to two visits to it by James I in 1610 and 1613.

"We negotiated with the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral, who wanted the building kept in public use rather than split up into flats," Saunders says. "Almost exactly 10 years ago we signed a lease and launched a public appeal for £300,000." In the end his ambitious scheme cost £700,000, but has just succeeded in its aim of increasing the annual number of visitors to 50,000 by the end of the decade. "It is a complicated building and we had to be very careful about adapting it for

museum use," Saunders says. The plan was to move in in 1981 and open a new gallery each year until 1989, and to do it they enlisted one of the best-known design partnerships working in museums, Robin Wade and Pat Reid. "The appeal had a double effect," Saunders says. "Not only did it bring us £600,000 in three years, but it brought tremendous approval from the community and a lot of public interest and support."

The first gallery to open, in 1982, was dedicated to the medieval city, with a model of Old Sarum. It described how 13th-century Salisbury and its cathedral were founded in the valley below. Later acquisitions such as the Clarendon Palace head, a sculpture from the 1240s, and the stone goblin from the old cathedral, are complemented by that first "Drainage Collection" of the kinds of things medieval burghers threw out or lost in the cobbles — keys, buckles, cutlery, pilgrim badges, spurs and horse trappings among them.

In the next year came not one, but three new galleries. The Stonehenge collection shows how and when the extraordinary construction was built, but not, of course, why — a question the display attempts to put into focus ready for the visitor's possible next stop, the monument itself.

Then came the pre-history GOOD HOUSEKEEPING: Shugborough, the ancestral seat of Lord Lichfield near Stafford, invites visitors to see how its fine collections of ceramics, silver, paintings and French furniture are conserved and cared for when the doors close to the public. Plus a National Trust Exhibition, "The Conservation of a Country House".

Shugborough, Milford, near Stafford (0889 881388). Mon-Fri 10.30am-2.30pm. £1.50 per person plus £5 per party. Must book in advance.

MUSEUMS



Medicine man: models of Dr Philip Neighbour and patient at Stitches in Time costume gallery

gallery, showing how Wilshire man developed from a Stone Age hunter-gatherer to a Saxon warrior through the archaeological discoveries gathered by the museum.

Also in 1983 came the Pitt Rivers Collection, which 10 years before had been the subject of a curatorial tug-of-war. This collection, by the same General Augustus Lane Fox Pitt Rivers of the ethnographical collections in Oxford, is a particular triumph for Saunders.

I was the general's own largely archaeological collection created from his Wessex estates, and had been on show at his home in Dorset. It closed in 1965 and by the early 1970s was in danger of being dispersed. The Department of the Environment expressed an interest, the British Museum wanted it, Dorchester Museum offered

to house it, but eventually, thanks to Saunders's energy and a powerful negotiating committee chaired by Lord Wolfenden, it came to Salisbury in 1974, snatched from the jaws of the sale room.

In 1984 the trust became a company limited by guarantee, to put it on a sounder financial footing; there followed a ceramics and glass gallery, and then a gallery for the Brixie Jarvis Wedgwood Collection. They completed the series almost on the final bell when they opened

Stitches in Time, a costume gallery, on December 9. "The idea was not to do the usual kind of costume display, which doesn't really appeal to younger visitors and children, but to use the costumes in settings which tell you something about local social history as well," says Saunders. So real characters from Salisbury's past are depicted, such

as the violin-maker Benjamin Banks, in 18th-century dress and presenting one of his violins — an actual model — to a customer; there is Captain Swayne and his family from the early 19th century, a curate of Tisbury out for a stroll in the Edwardian close.

To join in the Museums Association's centenary year, they devised an exhibition called "A Few of our Favourite Things", and wrote to 100 international personalities asking them to pick an object acquired by the museum over the last century; only the Prime Minister failed to respond. Lord Montagu of Beaulieu chose Scout Motors, the Salisbury manufacturers of which there is a photographic archive; the Duchess of York, patron of Museums Year, chose a Turner watercolour; Nigel Lawson, who was still Chancellor of the Exchequer then, chose a medieval silver penny; the Archbishop of Canterbury chose a silver porringer; Edward Heath, almost a next-door neighbour, picked a piece of Chelsea porcelain; Terry Wogan's fancy was for a Sheraton table, and Charles Wilson, editor of *The Times*, chose a rhinoceros tooth.

"It was one of the most successful things we've ever done, and brought us a 43 per cent increase in visitors over the same three months in 1988," Saunders says.

EXHIBITIONS

SHIP AHOY: 600 miniature ship models by R. Farnworth in a new permanent gallery. Passenger liners, cargo vessels, warships, ferries and tugs represented in the difficult medium of cardboard in minute accuracy at a scale of 1:1200. Merseyside Maritime Museum, Pier Head, Liverpool (051 207 0001). Open daily 10.30am-5.30pm. Admission £1.50, 75p concessions.

TURNER'S TRIUMPH: The third in the annual series of watercolour shows concentrates on 1810-1820, a time of professional triumph and personal contentment, culminating in his first trip to Italy in 1819. The brilliant light made an enormous impact on him; his art was never the same again. Tate Gallery, Millbank (01-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm; Sun, 2-5.50pm. Admission free. Jan 31-April 1.

John Shaw

OUT AND ABOUT

Continuing his tour of Britain's top tourist attractions, Nigel Andrew tackles the stamina proving-ground — Windsor

Castle right and proper

And does the Queen sleep in this bed? enquires the blue-haired lady from Houston, admiring the King's State Bedchamber. They are used to this sort of thing at Windsor Castle. "No madam," the attendant explains patiently, "the Royal Family live in their private apartments."

Other visitors — especially the Japanese — tend not to ask. They probably go home convinced they have seen the Queen's house. In fact, all they will have seen of the private apartments is the splendid view across the quadrangle of the upper ward. And the royals are seldom in, except during Ascot and the polo season.

Still, there are more than enough other reasons for the huge influx of visitors to Windsor Castle (some 700,000 a year). It is a tremendously impressive building, fulfilling the most opulent expectations of what an English castle ought to look like. It condenses many centuries of royal history and conspicuous consumption (pomp and patronage) — and of course, it is conveniently close to London.

It is also all too close to Heathrow, as the visitor is reminded every three minutes by the roar of an overflying jumbo. But when you are out on the North Terrace enjoying the grand view across the playing fields of Eton (blue-haired question: "And was the battle of Waterloo won here?") you can at least try to block out such modern intrusions.

Windsor Castle really does look the part. Its mighty romantic skyline, all muscular towers and serried battlements, looms hugely over the town, like some magic survival from the age of chivalry. This is precisely the intended effect, but in sober fact that picturesque appearance owes as much to the big-spending monarchs of the early 19th century as to their medieval ancestors. The closer to you get, the more apparent it becomes that Windsor is a castle kitted out in its Sunday best, clean-cut, spick and span, thoroughly comfortable and domesticated.

Going through the gates is like entering a small town, with Tarmac roads, mysterious ranges of buildings in every direction, signposts everywhere, and a large resident population of sentries, attendants and officials. The hordes of visitors are not dense at this time of year, and there is ample space. I was only forced to a halt once in my visit, in the confined space around Queen Mary's Dolls' House, that extraor-



So convenient for the shops: there is a great deal more to Windsor than the castle itself — if you have the energy left to explore the cobbled quarter at the gates, or Eton over the river

inary feat of patriotic craftsmanship in miniature. It is worth the stop anyway.

The little town has its own church — almost a cathedral in scale — the sumptuous, exquisitely vaulted St George's Chapel. A wide, airy building, walled with glass and lined with splendid monuments, it is a high watermark of Perpendicular Gothic. Visitors are routed round the aisles, noting the well-lit points of interest, and through the Gothic forest of the Garter Stalls. Here I found a guide explaining to a bewildered group why Queen Victoria never outwaged lesbianism (no, I couldn't quite see the connection either).

After the glories of St George's Chapel, the stunning Victorian extravaganza of the Albert Memorial Chapel, and a stroll around the charming 15th-century Horse-

shoe Cloister, the visitor might already be more than a little weary. But the tour has barely begun. Next comes the climb to the middle ward and the massive Round Tower, and on up to the North Terrace to see Queen Mary's Dolls' House and the exhibition of drawings. Here are Holbeins, Leonardos and Canalettos galore — but all in facsimile, as conditions in the gallery are not good enough to exhibit the originals. A pity this, but there are also very good, reasonably priced reproductions to be bought here.

Only now does the tour of the state rooms begin; and it is neither restful nor short. The first half takes you through a succession of interiors of enormous size and concussive splendour, mostly the work of George IV and his architects. All these rooms, in various forms of neo-Gothic,

souped-up and florid — and in the case of the Grand Reception Room, glitzy Louis XV — are overpowering in their splendour.

They strike no warmth from the visitor, but only inspire a cowed, dazzled respect. Perhaps that is the point of the state apartments of a royal castle. It certainly comes as a relief to pass into the smaller, more personal rooms which Charles II and Catherine of Braganza occupied. These lovely apartments, with their tapestries, glowing wood and richly wrought ceilings, are on a human scale. They draw you up to your proper height again.

Here hang the best of the Windsor pictures, and they are a magnificent collection — Van Dyck and Canaletto at their grandest, a room full of Rubens, a charming Hogarth of David Gar-

rick and his wife, and, so close you can stare into the depths of her face, Rembrandt's mother.

The paintings are minimally labelled, and both the Official Guide and the colour guidebook are notably reticent about the contents of rooms (and the hanging has changed since the latter was printed). No doubt this approach discourages dawdling and keeps the traffic flowing smoothly. Windsor Castle must be the only historic house in the country which actually routes its visitors by footbridge over the grand staircase on their way out. As you tramp across this curious plywood construction you see the next wave of visitors below you, surging up the stairs and into the state rooms.

If you have enough energy left you can spend the rest of the day discovering that there is a great deal more to Windsor than the

castle. The cobbled picture postcard quarter right by the castle is not the whole of it by any means, and the town — and Eton over the river — is well worth exploring at some length.

Bearing in mind that it has two other major crowd-pullers — the Windsor Safari Park, and Madame Tussaud's Royalty and Empire exhibition — it is not hard to see why Windsor is very much a top attraction. But at this time of year, when the crowds are bearable, it really does make a rather magnificent day out — if you have the stamina.

Windsor Castle state apartments are open in winter, Mon-Sat, 10.30am-3pm, closed Sun. Admission £2. St George's Chapel is open daily, 10.45am-3.45pm, Sun 2-3.45pm. Closed in January. Admission £1.50. Queen Mary's Dolls' House and Old Master Drawings, as state apartments. Admission £1.

OUTINGS

THE TWELFTH KNIGHT — OR HARLEQUIN — OR WHAT YOU WILL: Mr Players — lately of Covent Garden — in a Victorian entertainment in the music hall tradition with acts including commedia dell'arte, jugglers, dancers, musicians, singers, plus a guided tour. Mulled wine and light refreshments included. Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2 (booking 01-600 3699 ext 211). Today, 6.45-8.45pm. Adult £5, child under 14 £3. Not suitable for the very young.

EPHANY CELEBRATIONS: Today is the twelfth and final day of Christmas. In the Christian calendar it is also the Feast of the Epiphany — the manifestation of Christ to the wise men. Many services commemorate the event tomorrow, of which two of the biggest are the procession and carols in Sheffield Cathedral, 6.30pm; and Selby Abbey, North Yorkshire, with an address by the Archdeacon of York, also 6.30pm.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW: An enormous range of craft from dinghies, inflatables and sailboards to luxury yachts and power boats. Earls Court Exhibition Centre, Warwick Road, London SW5. Until Jan 14. Weekends 10am-7pm, weekdays 10am-8pm. Adult £4.80, child £1.70.

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY AND TRAVEL FAIR: 300 companies are present including airlines, tour operators, hotel groups, tourist offices. Masses of information, bookings taken, continuous entertainment for adults and children. Also tonight a fireworks display. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Today 10am-7pm, tomorrow 10am-5pm. Adult £2.50, senior citizen, child £1.

HOLIDAY ON ICE: Most spectacular show of its kind in the country, now in its 42nd edition. Brighton Centre, Brighton, East Sussex. Until Jan 21. Today performances at 2pm, 5pm, 8pm. Tomorrow 2pm and 5pm. Adults £5.75-£8.50. Child under 16 £2.90-£4.25. (Box office 0273 202891).

THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN: Edward Downes conducts the orchestra with John Lill on piano, in a programme of music by Prokofiev, Rachmaninov and Dvorák. Barbican Hall, Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2. Today, 7.45pm. Tickets £3-£10. (Box office 01-638 8881).

STOP LAUGHING: Ha-ha zoo's "human circus" — seven talented performers in feats of daring and skill. Jackson's Lane Community Centre, Archway Road, London N8. Today 7.30pm, tomorrow 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Adult £5, child under 16 £1.50. Box office (01-340 5225).

CHRISTMAS CHARACTERS WORKSHOP: Stories, films and other short events about Twelfth Night Visitors followed by workshops in which to create your own characters. Eastman Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2 (01-980 8415). Today 11am-1.30pm and 2-4.30pm. Museum admission free.

Judy Froshaug

CAMPUS FROM ABROAD

All the world's a stage

A country with more than 200 different types of beer is not a bad place to spend five months with fellow graduates from all over the world.

Twice yearly the Commission of the European Communities runs a five-month training course to teach between 350 and 450 graduates, how the European Commission works and how EC policy is formulated, enacted and implemented, in a practical way by working in one of the 23 directorate generals.

I am doing a stage (as the training course is called) in Brussels, together with 449 other graduates from 30 different countries. The training scheme is unfortunately poorly publicized in Britain and difficult to get into. Between 4,000 and 5,000 graduates apply for the places, and, after initial pre-selection, the remaining application forms are printed in the blue book.

The civil servants who have agreed to take a trainee then select a *stagiaire* from this book. However, most serious candidates will have individually lobbied civil servants who work in the directorate general which they have chosen or will have a contact who works there.

The programme begins with a week of lectures on the different aspects of Community policy and then each *stagiaire* spends the rest of the period working in their selected directorate general. I work for Directorate General III, Internal Market and Industrial Affairs, which is one of the most exciting and dynamic departments at this time.

I am also very lucky because my boss has given me a lot to do and has allowed me to attend various meetings and conferences, including sitting in on the council of ministers internal market meetings.

Some of my other colleagues have found themselves given little or no work to do, and others have had very menial office jobs to perform. It can be disappointing, considering the competition in getting a place on the scheme. Most *stagiaires*,

Louise Tookey on how the Commission of the European Communities is giving graduates a look into the future



however, are given small projects which usually involve researching and then writing a report on an area of particular interest.

As there are no permanent jobs offered after the stage and very few temporary contracts or extensions, the purpose of the scheme is difficult to fathom; especially after a long and uneventful day at work. It is certainly true that *stagiaires* are a cheap source of fairly high-calibre labour. We are paid only £80 per week and some do not even receive a grant.

But this is a cynical view of the scheme. For the Commission, the stage is a publicity exercise promoting awareness, understanding and knowledge of its workings and also of EC policy among future decision-makers. This is especially helpful to the Commission in the case of the *stagiaires* who come from non-member states.

From the *stagiaires* point of view, it gives us a unique opportunity to gain practical work experience in the Commission, and assists us in our careers.

To concentrate only on the

working aspect of the scheme, however, is to ignore the other opportunities it offers and which make it so special. It enables young people to meet each other and to live and work closely together. It is a mingling of cultures, a meeting of minds and an exchange of experiences and ideas, which has no parallel in university, school or possibly even working life.

For example, when the news of the lifting of travel restrictions for East Germans was announced, a few *stagiaires* did not merely discuss it over a beer, instead they hired a mini bus and drove to Berlin. On their return, a conference and debate were organized and, later, a photographic exhibition. Their spontaneity and dynamism are generated from being together at the centre of the EC.

The social life is, therefore, important and most civil servants, and even the head of the training scheme, encourage the events organized by the *stagiaires*; the cultural events, the visits to European cities and the speaker meetings as well as parties.

Although my stage has shattered some of the more idealistic preconceptions that I had held about the Commission, it has none the less convinced me that I want to pursue a career in EC affairs. I have had to come to terms with the frustration of working in an organization that is dependent on other European and national organizations; and one that works mostly in two, but potentially in nine, different languages.

I have gained a lot from the stage. It has given me a new perspective. My horizons have been broadened through living in another European capital and the challenges of speaking and working in a different language.

In many respects, it is an unrealistic existence and one that will come to an end too soon, planting me firmly back on the real ground. But it is an experience I would not have swapped for all the former wine lakes of the EC.

● The Commission of the European Communities can be contacted at 8 Storey's Gate, London SW1

Of course every aspiring American college has a football team and every American college has its homecoming — that once-a-year pageant when alumni are welcomed back and firmly embraced until their cheque-books fall, once again, into University hands.

But for the University of Colorado in Boulder, USA, this academic year's homecoming was rather exceptional with more to celebrate and more to reflect upon.

Homecoming, like most other weekends on campus, is dominated by the football game — this year played between the Colorado Buffaloes and Kansas University's Jayhawks. The floats paraded in front of CU's 55,000 capacity Folsom Stadium, many of them boldly displaying the motif of a buffalo killing a jayhawk (a strange and non-existent bird), making everyone well aware that at 9.30 am the tournament had already started.

CU football games exert a strange form of social attraction towards not just the campus but most of the state, so that going to "the game" is not the single sex spectator sport one might expect, but more of a true social occasion.

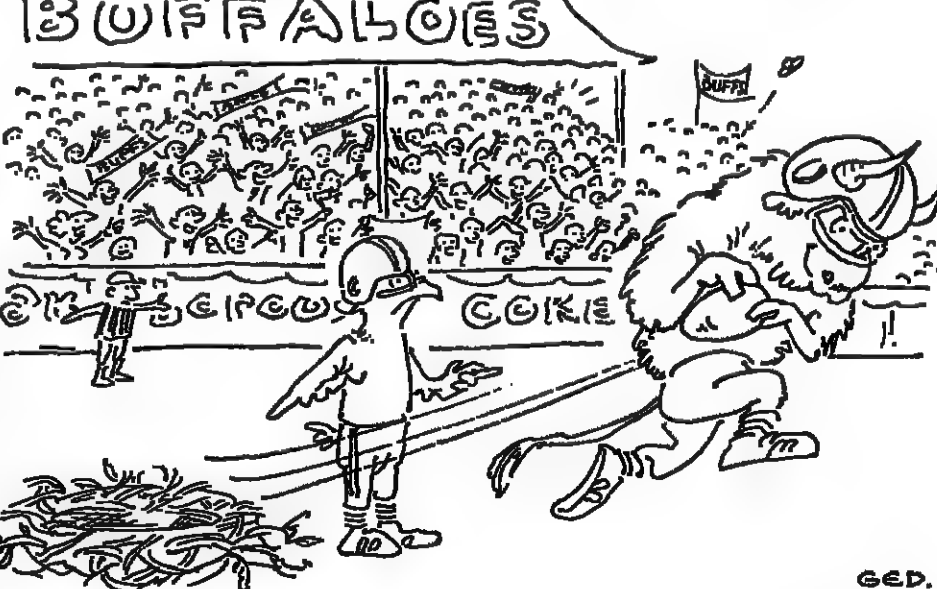
The extent of this attraction becomes apparent around 10.30 am (still three hours before the kick-off) when the huge stadium becomes surrounded by trucks and trailers and stationwagons parked and unloaded, dispensing beer, chicken wings and conversation to whomsoever might be vaguely interested.

Inside the stadium, 50-odd thousand people begin to look like 50 thousand odd people as game fever becomes apparent. Glenn Miller, a previous stu-

dent at CU, would probably approve of the big band sound of the Colorado Buffaloes Golden Marching Band, though I am not sure he would have chosen Gary Glitter's *Rock 'n' Roll* as a suitable anthem. The band's notorious 8 am rehearsals, like most other ills of the academic week, are seemingly forgotten in game fever; all that matters today is that the Buffs win. And they do.

For a long time I could not understand the heroic status of these simple ball-players. I could not understand why Folsom Stadium should have 50,000 people screaming for these men — why them? And then it all became terribly simple; everyone in CU wants to be strong, wants never to be

Michael Bolton, a British student at Colorado University, describes the hysteria and tragedy behind the big match



vulnerable. That is why the free-weights and resistance rooms are rarely less than full throughout 16-hour days. Perhaps that also explains a seemingly greater aversion (than in England) to what my Coloradoan room-mate will only call "the R word" — relationships. Here strength and independence are presumed to go hand in hand, where perhaps independence and a sad kind of loneliness are more suited to one another. And suddenly, in the middle of all this belief, Sal Aunese (the Buffaloes' Samoan quarterback), the figurehead of youthful athletic endeavour and this almost unwritten philosophy, died of cancer.

Aunese's death has produced a kind of new awareness of vulnerability simply because of his athletic prowess and vitality. Indeed, curiously for a town which prides itself on a "liberal" attitude to race, the football team is the only truly recognized, accepted, arena for black students. Boulder's pretence does seem to go little further than lipservice. Consequently the attempt by university authorities to dedicate a floor of the University Memorial Centre to Aunese as a racial minority student, could not detract from his true celebrated minority status — that of Buff quarterback.

● Michael Bolton is an undergraduate from the University of East Anglia spending a year at the University of Colorado.

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A COMPUTER

Reviews may be of television, radio, theatre, film or music performances. The first prize is the Zenith SupersPORT 286 portable computer plus an Epson LQ400 printer. Second prize is a Zenith Z-159 personal computer plus Epson LX400 printer. Third prize is a Pilot FJ1000 fountain pen. There are additional prizes of Collins CD records and 10 runners-up prizes. The competition is open to students up to the age of 24 (on January 31, 1990) who are in full-time education. Entries should be no longer

than 600 words, and should include details of where and when the performance took place or was broadcast. Entries to *The Times*, Campus Critic (Comp), PO Box 486, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Every entry should include the writer's name, home address, college address, telephone number and age. Closing date is January 31.

EATING OUT

Taste of things to come

On Boxing Day, Channel 4 transmitted a programme that should not have been allowed past the cutting room door. Its subject was Elizabeth David. Its tone was one of arch sycophancy — but this is not what made the audience cringe with embarrassment. What did the trick was the chummy collusion between the presenter and the various encomiasts to the effect that they were votaries of some exclusive cult.

This, of course, was not. Mrs David has, for more than 30 years, been the best-known writer on food in Britain. No doubt it was the fact that she had not previously appeared on television that prompted her fans to mount such a pathetic performance. Anyway, whatever the reason, the thing must have come as a godsend to the still sizeable majority of her compatriots who think that foreign food is muck and that champions of foreign food are a bunch of smug taste-freaks. Why should this great popularizer be dragged into a gastro-ghetto?

I was going to say that the programme had probably set back the cause of serious gastronomy by a decade, but since it was so inept I cannot believe that anyone without a professional interest would have watched it to the end. And I hope it will put no one off Mrs David's books, which look like being the key Anglophone texts for restaurant chefs of the Nineties — the books, unlike the paeans to her, are unpretentious and precise.

Any mutt who has just cottoned on to the death of nouvelle cuisine and has heard about this culinary fashion called *cuisine du terroir* need only equip himself with *French Provincial Cooking* in order to keep up with, if not ahead of, the game. The craze for *terroir* which afflicted just about everything in the 80s, has come late to professional kitchens. The fact that the mutt's *terroir* may be Sorbitol or Balsam Heath does not matter. This is fashion — all those girls wearing nautically iconized clothes a couple of years ago were not wrong, you know. As fashions go *cuisine du terroir* is averagely ridiculous. The necessity for a cooking based in the products of a particular locality and in that locality's traditions and culture disappeared, like the vernacular buildings, with the

Jonathan Meades makes a plea for higher standards in 1990



coming of the train, the internal combustion engine, the airplane. In the great cities of the West and, increasingly, in provincial towns, a cook enjoys unprecedented choice. So why are sophisticated metropolitan chefs pretending to be peasants from the Vaucluse or Lombardy? Part of it is herd instinct, part of it is a paradoxical rejection of internationalism. This new peasant cookery is a subcultural cousin of the international trend towards locally local. Of course it is a pose, but it is a welcome one. And one that should benefit punters throughout the coming decade. Nouvelle cuisine was all very well in the hands of the masters, but at seventh remove it was not too clever (and isn't it still hanging on, mainly in hotels here and there). This new stuff — which is actually the old stuff, given a twist

— is easier to execute. It is folk cookery rather than haute cuisine. It is certainly not moron-proof but it does not require such obvious virtuosity to get it right. Lentils futures must be a good bet — that pulse is already the formulaic token of peasant intent. Are we in, too, for a glut of daubes, cassoulets, oxtails? I wish it, I will it — but I doubt it. Cassoulet, properly made, is a very expensive dish; oxtail, properly boned, is labour-intensive. More to the point, too many restaurants can only survive if they allow their menu to be determined by industrialized catering suppliers. This is why, say, the duck breast has been ubiquitous throughout the last seven or so years. Undoubtedly there are now more estimable restaurants in the UK than there have ever been before. This has come about despite the big chains. Chain

ownership is the British norm, the way family ownership is the French norm. And therein lies the real and probably unbridgeable gap — the everyday establishments are in the wrong hands. A boycott of chain-owned establishments would be a constructive start to the decade. Until the middleground is reclaimed, English restaurant is going to remain like a pyramid founded on air — the top is in place, but most of the structure beneath is missing. This is attributable to the demands of business entertainment, to the self-deluding vanity of proprietors aiming for upmarket positions, and, in London, to overblown which, already high, will go through the roof with the rate revaluation. This section of the market is becoming overcrowded — witness the emptiness of most hotel dining rooms, witness too the closure after three

months of One Sixteen Knightsbridge, a restaurant which might have succeeded had it opened in 1985 rather than in 1989. There is simply not so much money about as there was five years ago. One sort of inroad to the middleground is the wine bar. The generic name is off-putting and needs recasting but there are certain places which have shown what can be done. They have formed only a tributary throughout the 80s. With luck they will swell to fill the mainstream of this already five-day-old decade.

Among the most successful of these not-quite-restaurants has been 192 in Notting Dale. Its first — or one of its first — chefs was Alastair Little. The current stove-operative suggests that she is capable of recasting the standard Little achieved. The elementary school post modern decorative scheme may now be looking tired but the cooking is fresh, thoughtful, absolutely unpretentious and very agreeably priced. If only the girls who served it had been chosen for competence rather than looks.

The following, plus an undeserved tip, came to £42: pheasant leg stuffed with a herby, porky forcemeat and served with the inevitable lentils and a slightly too tart sauce; lamb's breads (which are too rarely used — they are cheap) with browned onions and artichokes; goat cheese in properly cooked filo pastry (unusual that — filo pastry is so persistently mis-handled it should be abandoned); a creamy funnel and celeriac soup; spatchcocked quail with chopped chichory; a fine pear and almond tart; a bizarrerie and toothsome bread and butter pudding made with the Italian raisin and peel bread called *panettone*.

With alcohol instead of water the bill would have been £50 — but this was a meal for three people. Two people drinking wine could lunch for what we paid. It does not compare favourably with the commonplace 75 franc menus in Paris suburbs, but in London cooking of this standard at this price is rare. These are the lines along which restaurateurs of the 90s should be thinking: 192 is as sound a model as any for 1992.

192
192 Kensington Park Road,
London W11 (01-229 0482), 240.
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DIRECTOR

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change: they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

SCOTLAND

Inverloch Castle
Torbairdy, Fort William, Highland
Region (0397 2177)

★★★★★
An extraordinary Victorian time capsule which was to be more country house than hotel. The service is quite something — a uniformed platoon of waiters who, inevitably, have difficulty negotiating the massive, heavy, ornate interior of the muscular baronial pile is impressive — haphazard of panelling, hundreds of dead stags, heads, overwrought furniture by Louis the Decorator and Louis the Highlander. The setting beneath Ben Nevis is also more than starting. The cooking is regular, lacks luxury but is all pretty well cooked but lacking any individual stamp; the meat, however, especially the beef, is first rate. £100.

The Colonial
25 High Street, Glasgow 1 (041 562 1823)

★★★★★
A slightly gloomy establishment whose ambitious cooking tends to be marred by overcomplication. Dishes inevitably have a couple too many ingredients. Simple things such as roast beef, fish, consommé and the puddings are, however, not bad at all. £25.

Pierre Victoire
10 Victoria St, Edinburgh 1
(031 225 1721)

★★★★★
Chaotic, cramped, noisy, animated bistro in Edinburgh Old Town. The cooking, within its limitations, is mostly pretty good and is excellent value for money. Scallops with warm smoked salmon, halibut with mussels, pork with mango sauce. The service is liable to disruptions. £35.

Domain Park
On A22, two miles south of
Inverness (0463 23512)

★★★★★
The atmosphere is that of a guest house that has come up in the world. The place is rather homey, the cooking is not — it is simply more than it can deliver and seems reluctant to keep things simple. When the sound ingredients are not muddled around, the results are pleasing. Excellent wines, good views of the River Ness and the Caledonian Canal. £20-£25.

The Old Monastery
Drybridge, Buckle, Banffshire
(0542 32666)

★★★★★
More a re-building than a conversion, this spacious and handsome

establishment looks down across Pict land to the Moray Firth. The cooking tends towards provincial over-elaboration, but is on target with the simpler fare. The wine list is pretty good, the all-female service is charming, though with tendencies towards the nicest kind of bossiness. £20.

The Champney Inn
Nr Linton, Lothian (050 883 4332/4333)

★★★★★
The no plus ultra of the steak house. A very strange outfit indeed. The meat is "grown" by the owners but is, sometimes, carefully cooked. The gravies are the best in Britain. The service is quirky, pleasant. A genuine oddity and one that is worth trying if you can afford £100.

COVENT GARDEN

Orzo
27 Wellington Street, London WC2
(01-340 6283)

★★★★★
Fashionable basement done out to look like Milan or Turin of the early 1950s. Among the top four Italian places in London. Most dishes are of Piedmontese or Lombardian provenance: sweetbreads with shrimps, chicken with olives and tomatoes. It successfully combines rusticity with refinement. The attention to detail is great. Interestingly, the Italian wine list. £20.

Neal Street Restaurant
28 Neal Street, London WC2 (01-636 8368)

★★★★★
The long menu promises much, but only rarely delivers. The cooking is basically Italian and is certainly fairly inventive in its approach. But the execution is not too hot. The place is littered with all sorts of fashionable art in 1988. Interestingly, the wine list. £20.

Carli Felloni
45 St Martin's Lane, London WC2
(01-379 0309/0258)

★★★★★
Large pseudo-French "brasserie" whose efforts at sophisticated dishes are usually wasted, but whose steak and chips. Tasty soups and the like are sound enough. £40.

Milange
59 Strand, London WC2 (01-240 8077)

★★★★★
Dutch owned place with a "youngster" atmosphere of eager informality, and an excellent selection of Amsterdam without the snobbery. The cooking is unpretentious and sometimes pretty good — Guyard and spinach in pasta, a sauce of beets and honey, delicious as they are. Inexpensive wine and excellent Belgian beer. £25.

Boulevarde
12 Henrietta Street, London WC2
(01-536 7061)

★★★★★
Grand and old-fashioned basement. The cooking has one idiom which is that of superb French. Turned-out Rosol, sweetbreads with a heavy meat sauce, extravagant soups, good wines and mostly reliable service. A mecca for corporate dinners and loud men with florid cheeks. £124.

RESTAURANT AND CATERING GUIDE



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FOOD

Upsetting the apple-cart

Demand for organic fruit shows strong growth, writes Lesley Abdela

This weekend a cargo is heading for British shores which should bring a feeling of relief to environmentally conscious apple lovers. A container of Red Delicious organic apples from Washington State is on its way to our stores.

The shiny red apples will be on sale in British supermarkets until the arrival of next autumn's harvest of British-produced organic apples. The container-load arriving next week signals the first time British shoppers will be able to buy organic apples all year round.

Organically grown apples are available from supermarkets such as Sainsbury and Safeway, as well as from wholesale outlets and even by mail order.

Consumers may wonder why organic produce — still accounting for less than one per cent of the total fruit and vegetable market in the UK, though growing fast — costs so much more than non-organic. Sainsbury sells organic produce in more than 150 of its stores. American or Canadian organic apples sell at £1.25 a pound, compared with non-organic British or French apples at 45p a pound.

One reason is lack of government support at the transition stages from chemical-based to organic agriculture. It takes three to four years to establish an organic apple orchard. Problems of pest control explain much of the extra cost.

Growing "topfruit" such as apples and pears organically is still pioneer work. "When you grow perennials," says Roger Rendall, production director of Hill Farm, Boxford, Suffolk, "the risk is great. You get last year's disease. It's not like potatoes or carrots where you plant a fresh crop each year."

Kim Wilson-Gough is founder of a new UK group called the Natural Fruit Growers Association, which markets direct to consumers. He has 10,000 apple trees at Whitehouse Farm near Totnes in Devon, producing between 100 and 250 tons a year of apples. Wilson-Gough says: "People are crying out for organic food. I had a letter from one woman saying: 'I haven't dared eat apples for a year.'"

The Soil Association considers John Chevallier, Guild of Aspal Hall, near Debenham, Suffolk, one of the best organic apple producers



Apple-picking in Suffolk: intensive labour raises fruit prices

in the country. He has been associated with organic growing for 30-odd years. "Our whole farm is grown on a commercial organic basis — about 75 acres in properly managed rows. It costs us £5,000 an acre to put in new orchards. Labour is the main cost."

"As organic farmers, our returns are the same as conventional growers, but our production levels will never be quite as good. It simply costs more to produce organic."

Organically grown apples are not the perfect-looking specimens we have become used to finding in the stores. Rendall says: "When you go back to nature, apples become bumpy, misshapen and even have skin blemishes. This doesn't affect the eating quality. In fact organic fruit tastes better."

Many growers feel the British Government has shown little or no interest or support in safety, costs, or research in organic farming. The Organic Farmers and Growers, a co-operative of 210 farmers, would like to see a greater commitment by government to encouraging organic farming. Colin Ware, the agricultural services manager, says: "We would welcome a subsidy from the Government to help farmers over the transition period from conventional to organic farming. In the US, the strong consumer lobby has forced the American government to support organic farming."

Ware also wants to see more safety enforcement in the use of chemicals, starting with an end to the secrecy surrounding the agro-chemical industry. "I have in front of me an article from an American periodical which gives precise details on the side effects of certain agrochemicals, not only on human cancers, but on reproduction, on contamination of water and soil, their effects on fish, birds and bees, and persistence in the soil. In the UK this is classified as 'protected information' by Government, and as commercially sensitive information by industry."

At the moment consumers are understandably confused. What does "organic" really mean? Under the Single European Act, standards for organic produce across Europe are now being harmonized, but at present classifications remain confused. The Soil Association organic standard is the best-known symbol, followed by that of the Organic Farmers and Growers. Roger Rendall explains: "Organic Farmers and Growers is geared to commercial growers. The Soil Association, founded in 1946, is more geared to garden crops and market gardens."

The Ministry of Agriculture has asked Food for Britain to set up a UK register of organic food standards. By November, we should all be able to look for the UKROPS symbol to assure us that we are eating apples grown to a nationally recognized organic standard. Meanwhile, Britain's fast growing army of health-conscious consumers and the lack of home-grown supplies mean that shiploads of North American organic apples will be sailing into British ports for years to come.

THE TIMES COOK

Frances Bissell celebrates Twelfth Night with four recipes flavoured with good taste and tradition

It's Twelfth Night, Epiphany, *Fête des Rois, La Befana*... the last festival of the western Christmas calendar and the day on which we take the decorations down. It's also a Saturday, which provides an excuse to have another party.

One of the nicest parties I went to last year was a *Fête des Rois* held at Le Meridien hotel in London. What was so stylish, even more than the champagne, the delectable cold and hot canapés, and the dancing on a tiny dance floor, was that it was held from 10pm until midnight, which made it seem even more glamorous than it already was.

Galette des Rois, the flaky almond filled pastry, traditional on this feast day, was served and the person finding the China bean was made king of the feast and led the dancing.

"Fabophile" is a word I have heard used to describe the French at this time of year. The *fève*, or bean, hidden in the cake is no longer the ordinary dried *légume* but may be a collector's piece of porcelain or even 18-carat gold. Crowns, figures and even maps of France replace the bean. A famous Parisian baker has them made to his own design, representing miniature country leaves. The bean, originally the voting counter at the Roman feast of Saturnalia, used to elect the king of the evening. Gradually the pagan ritual was adopted and adapted to suit the festival of Epiphany.

In Italy, a relatively new public holiday has been designated by the children's name of *La Befana*, the good fairy who brings sweets and other presents on January 6. We were in Lucra, in northern Tuscany, one year at *La Befana*, and I remember the special crisp biscuits baked for the occasion, strewn with coloured sugar crystals or hundreds and thousands.

In Britain, too, we have special food for celebrating Twelfth Night in the form of Twelfth Night cakes. These are rich mixtures containing dried fruit, crystallized fruit and almonds, not unlike some of the cake recipes I have given in previous weeks, and I thought it might be nice to give the French version of Twelfth Night cake, as it is very easy and requires few ingredients.

The *galette* is best served warm — and do warm guests if there is a "bean" or other object buried in it. Thinking of Lucra reminded me of a very good soup we ate there, *zuppa alla frantoliana*, the *frantolo* being the place where olives are crushed to make oil. Since beans are one of its main ingredients, it seems appropriate to include it in today's recipe. But the main reason for doing so is that it is a warming and nourishing bowlful on a cold January day.

The pork and chestnut casserole is also very seasonal, pork being a traditional meat for serving at the beginning of the year, and chestnuts still good and plentiful.

For a lighter dish, I recommend the cod with mussels, both of which are also at their best in the middle of winter. If you cannot get either of the herbs I have suggested, parsley, celery or watercress can be substituted — stalks to flavour the stock and leaves finely chopped for garnish.

Zuppa alla frantoliana
(Tuscan bean and cabbage soup)
(serves 2 or 3)
2 rashers smoked streaky bacon
1 onion, peeled and thinly sliced



Last of the great feasts

1 1/2lb/230g pre-soaked haricot, cannellini or borlotti beans
1 1/2pts/850ml stock or water
1/4lb/230g shredded cabbage
pinch dried oregano
1 bay leaf
1 celery stalk, trimmed and sliced
salt and pepper
2-3 thick slices dried or lightly toasted wholemeal bread
2-3tbsp extra virgin olive oil per bowl
freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Discard the rind from the bacon, which is then cut into matchsticks. Fry them gently in a heavy saucepan until the fat runs. Fry the onion until golden brown, then add the beans and stock. Cover and simmer gently for an hour. Add the cabbage, herbs and celery, and cook for another 30-40 minutes, or until the beans are tender. Top up with water or stock if necessary. Season to taste.

Put a slice of bread in the bottom of each soup bowl and pour olive oil over it. I find that two- or three-day old bread, just allowed to harden off, is better than toasted fresh bread, which softens in the hot soup too quickly. Pour the boiling soup into the bowls, and serve the Parmesan

cheese and extra olive oil separately.
Cod with mussels and herbs
(serves 2)
3lb/1.35kg mussels
1/4pt/140ml dry white wine
6-8 dill or coriander stalks
1 small onion, finely chopped
8 x 8 to 8oz/170-230g pieces of cod fillet or cod cutlet
salt and pepper
1/4lb/230g leeks
1-2oz/30-60g unsalted butter
1 heaped tsp finely chopped dill or coriander
4tbsp cream (optional)

Scrub the mussels under cold running water and knock off any barnacles with the back of an old knife. Rinse and put them in a large, lidded saucepan with the wine, herb stalks and onion. Put on the lid and place the saucepan over a high heat for two to three minutes, just sufficient to steam open the mussels. Strain the cooking juices through a fine sieve and reserve it. When the mussels are cool enough to handle, remove from their shells and place in a bowl covered with cling film to prevent them from drying out. Skin the fish fillets, and season lightly with salt and pepper. Put to

one side while you prepare the leeks. Cut off the roots and the green top, and remove the coarse outer layers. Then either slice into thin rings or cut into 3in/7.5cm lengths; split and shred into fine strips. Wash thoroughly to get rid of any soil, and dry in paper towels.

Melt the butter in a large heavy-lidded frying pan and sweat the leeks until just tender. Push to one side of the pan, and add the cod fillets in a single layer. Cover and cook the fish gently until done to your liking. With a fish slice, carefully lift out the pieces of fish, and keep them covered in a warm place. Add the mussel juice to the pan, and boil it up to reduce it somewhat. Stir in the herbs, and cream if using it, and cook for two to three minutes more.

Just heat through before spooning sauce, leeks and mussels over the cod and serving immediately. Monkfish, haddock, plaice fillets and other white fish are all very good cooked in this way with leeks and mussels.

Pork cooked in cider with chestnuts and potatoes
(serves 2 to 4)
3lb/1.35kg spare rib chops
2oz/50g flour

1/2tsp salt
1/2tsp freshly ground black pepper
1/2tsp ground cinnamon
1/2tsp ground mace
1-2tbsp olive oil, or use a non-stick frying pan
20 small onions, peeled
1 1/2lb/680g small potatoes, scrubbed or peeled
1lb/455g chestnuts, boiled and peeled
1 bay leaf
1 sprig sage
1 sprig parsley
1 sprig thyme
1 1/2pts/850ml dry cider
2 apples
1tbsp melted butter
2tbsp finely chopped parsley

Trim any excess fat from the pork chops. Put the flour, seasoning and spices in a bag, and shake the chops in the seasoned flour until lightly dusted. Fry the chops, a few at a time, until browned all over, and put them to one side. Brown the onions. Put half the onions, potatoes and chestnuts in the bottom of a casserole and arrange the pork chops on top. Cover with the rest of the vegetables. If you cannot get small potatoes, cut larger ones into pieces. Tie the herbs together, and tuck down in the pot. Pour on enough cider to come almost to the top of the vegetables. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer very gently or cook in a low oven until the meat is done, about one hour.

Peel and core the apples and slice into rings; blanch them until tender, and arrange on top of the casserole. Brush with melted butter, and finish off under the grill to just caramelize the apples. Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

If you prefer to have a thicker sauce, strain off the liquid before you add the apple. Boil until reduced to the thickness you require, pour back over the meat and proceed with the apples.

This dish is best followed by a firm, crisp winter salad. Fennel, celery, Chinese leaves and blanched celeriac, shredded or diced as appropriate, seasoned and then bound in a light, creamy, mustardy dressing would be a perfect contrast to the pork and chestnut stew.

Twelfth Night cake
5oz/140g ground almonds
3oz/85g softened unsalted butter
3oz/85g caster sugar
2tsp orange flower water (optional)
10oz/280g puff pastry
1 China bean or dried haricot bean
Beat egg and milk for glaze

Mix the almonds, butter, sugar and orange flower water together. Roll out two circles of dough, about 8-9in/20 to 23cm in diameter. Place one circle on a baking sheet lined with grease proof paper, and spread the filling over it, leaving a 1/4in/2cm border. Push the bean into the almond mixture and smooth over it. Brush around the border with the egg and milk mixture, and lay the second circle on top. Press down lightly with the prongs of a fork to seal. Prick the top in one or two places, and decorate if you wish with pastry trimmings or by patterning with a sharp knife. Brush with glaze. Bake in a preheated oven at 200°C/400°F, gas mark 6 for 15-20 minutes until well risen and golden brown.

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DRINK

Great wines for the 1990s

Jane MacQuitty assesses the new French vintages that will be worth laying down

Quite wrongly, as every honest wine trader will admit, the quality of Bordeaux's vintages tends to shape what the wine world thinks of that year in general. No matter that Bordeaux's warm, southern climate can be quite different from that of the more northerly vineyards of Burgundy: if Bordeaux looks good, then so must Burgundy.

Strangely 1988, the Burgundy year due to be offered here this spring, has managed to forge a first-class reputation of its own without the aid of Bordeaux. Most Burgundy specialists agree that the '88 red Burgundies are outstanding. (Erroneously, the '89 Burgundy vintage is already viewed by some as superior to the '88; although the white '89s may possibly eclipse the white '88s, the reds certainly won't.)

Domaine Direct's 1988 introductory offers are out now and close on January 31. Contact them at 29 Wilton Square, London WC1. Other fine Burgundy specialists worth noting are Morris & Verdin, 28 Churton Street, London SW1; Adam Bancroft, Gresham House, 4-7 Great Pulteney Street, London W1; Laytons, 20 Midland Road, London W1; and Berkman Wine Cellars, 12 Brewery Road, London N7. Watch out, too, for some fine '89 Beaujolais Crus, or Village wines, as good as if not better than the toothsome '87s.

Good decades of Bordeaux vintages are often followed by bad ones. In recent years, Bordeaux has had many good vintages, so the pessimist's view is that we ought to buy leading clarets now. 1988 was the last Bordeaux vintage on sale here, and although some excellent wines have been made in both the Médoc and St Emilion and Pomerol, the '88s I have tasted somehow lack the seductive, ripe fruit of a truly great year. Hold fire on '88 Bordeaux until it is older.

Paroles of the mediocre '87 clarets are starting to appear on UK shop shelves, most notably at Majestic Wine Warehouses and Oddbins, as Bordeaux and British merchants make room for finer, later vintages. Most match up to the 1987's reputation, but there are exceptions such as the elegant, smoky Château Grande Mayne, St Emilion, and the full, plummy Château Nemin, both £6.99 from Oddbins. Look out, too, for the much-vaunted '89 Bordeaux vintage, whose early harvest and reputedly fine wines are already being compared to the superlative '82s and fine '86s. The Wine Society, Gunness Wood Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, and the

Hungerford Wine Company, 24 High Street, Hungerford, Berkshire, are both worth contacting now about the '89 claret that will be offered this spring. First-class cru classé Bordeaux and single domaine Burgundy, although worth purchasing, are hardly going to be the bargain French wine buys of 1990 and beyond. That role is still played by the Rhône, whose red wines, in particular, are still much undervalued. Apart from the well-known merchant houses of Jaboulet and Chapoutier, look out for Guigal and Chave's wines and those glorious Châteaufort-Pape wines from Chateau De Beaucastel and Domaine Du Vieux Télégraphe.

1988 is the finest year since 1978 for both the north and south Rhones. Adams, The Crown, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk; Tanners, 26 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, Shropshire; and Lay and Wheeler, 6 Culver Road West, Colchester, Essex, all have fine Rhône lists. Keep an eye open for the '89 Rhones too, the product of an extraordinary drought year but rumoured by some to be as good as the '88s.

If the wines of the Rhône are still undervalued, those of Alsace are the forgotten wines of France. For years wine merchants have been praising their virtues, but customers remain unmoved by their bone-dry, flowery-fruity charms. I much enjoyed tasting the youthful '88 Alsace wines when I visited the region last month. But if the '88s are impressive, the '89s are spectacular. Whatever you do this year, buy a case of a first-class '89 Alsace Riesling from top estates such as Faller, Zind-Humbrecht and good merchants such as Hugel and Trimbach.

In the Champagne region, 1988 was an excellent year, with a reasonable yield, but 1989 definitely has the edge. Krug describes it as "very, very exceptional". Veuve Clicquot as "remarkable", and Roederer "perfect". The '89 vintage could even surpass legendary vintages such as 1947 and 1959. While we all wait for the '88s and '89s, banish those 1990 blues with a glass or two of Krug's amazing Grande Cuvée, whose hazelnut-like scent and rich, harmonious palate are the stuff that dreams are made of. It is available at £38 from Oddbins, or £33.95 from Majestic, and is worth every penny.

I shall be returning to these worthwhile vintages and regions throughout the year, and letting you know where to buy the best bottles.

WINE BUYS

● **Sainsbury's Cannonau del Partolu**, Sainsbury's, £2.35. If your January bills look as big as mine do, you will need a reasonably priced red and white wine to tide you over. This chunky Sardinian red with its big, rich truffle fruit should fit the bill nicely. ● **1988 Côte du Rhône**, Cuvée St Laurent Davison's, £3.35. I am not a great fan of white Rhône

wines, but this well-made, light, waxy wine is a good, inexpensive medium-bodied winter white. ● **1988 Concha y Toro**, Cabernet Sauvignon Victoria Wine, £3.19. Not as classy as Concha y Toro's wines used to be, but a very palatable 1990 gashall all the same. The ripe, blackcurrant-pastille flavours of this Chilean red are unmistakable.

CAFE SOCIETY

In training for oysters

Woodrow Wilson, a logical fellow, went for the oysters. Plain-spoken Harry Truman liked a plain piece of fish, broiled. John Kennedy, though understandably loyal to a Boston version of the stuff, allowed that the fish chowder was perfectly acceptable and had a second helping. Though not all have left a record of their favourite dishes, every American President since 1913, when the place opened, has eaten here. Not bad going for a station buffet.

But of course Grand Central Terminal is no ordinary railway station and the Grand Central Oyster Bar & Restaurant is no ordinary buffet. When Cornelius Vanderbilt opened his great terminus, people flocked to see what was considered an engineering marvel. And *le tout* New York of the day stayed on to see, and be seen in, the new and immediately fashionable Oyster Bar.

From Grand Central those great American trains rolled out nightly, with near timing. If you took, for

Track down the Grand Central buffet for a splendid fishy feast, says Charles Hennessy

instance, the 20th-Century Limited to Chicago, pulling out at 11.15pm, you could at your leisure demolish a mollusc or two at the Oyster Bar before moving on to a piscatorial plate while a Red Cap stashed your luggage and the Pullman porter turned down the bed in your sleeper.

Whether they were travelling or seeing off friends, this is where the likes of "Diamond" Jim" Brady, Lillian Russell, Florenz Ziegfeld, Lily Langtry and Al Jolson hung out and helped to make the Oyster Bar what it is: indisputably an American institution.

Check it out for yourself: all you have to do is go to New York. Then all you have to do is find the place. Finding Grand Central is a cinch. There it is, right under the Pan Am building. Enter by way of the Pan Am lobby (last month, a high school choir sweetly carolled at me from the mezzanine above)

and take an escalator down to the great concourse. Is it some noble city bank? A hall of government? The Supreme Court? There is no sight, scent or sound of locomotive, no trace of grit or grime or glimpses of oily engine driver.

The music changed to *Swan Lake* and there was the Connecticut Ballet, playing to a circle of well-fed burghers in fur, mittens, galoshes and Muscovite hats, their backs carefully turned to the latest *habitués*, the so-called underclass who wheel their tatty possessions in supermarket trolleys and panhandle for small change. No sign, either, of the famous Oyster Bar.

You have to ask. It takes, they say, about three commuters before you get it right. Or go to the central information desk where they respond to any question like faultless automatons. Sticking close to the wall you go down what, elsewhere, would be a side-street

until you come to a door which would, in any ordinary station, open on to a place that copies keys or fixes broken heels.

Inside, you go down a steep set of stairs to an elongated S-shaped bar (the barman speaks four languages and likes to vacation in Paris) surrounded by a few cheerfully-covered tables. You could eat here, with advantage, you wouldn't miss anyone who came in, and you'd find it quieter than the great caves that lie beyond the door in the far right corner.

But through that door is where the action is. Take a seat at the counter on the left (this is the Oyster Bar) and in front of you, in tiers like a Busby Berkeley chorus descending a staircase, white-clad chefs stir steaming pots of soup, stew and chowder, shuck oysters and clams and dissect crabs and lobsters (also served at a take-away counter to New Yorkers too busy even to perch on a stool for 10 minutes). Behind you, at the kind of horseshoe-shaped tables favoured by burger joints and airport cafeterias, customers are served by green-and-white clad waitresses.

Beyond this middle kingdom, under the same high-vaulted ceilings (lined, like the walls, with tiles of two-tone tan and lit by chandeliers and the kind of lights found in stars' dressing-rooms), the serious eaters gather.

This is the restaurant proper. The tablecloths are in the American vernacular, which means red-and-white check to denote hearty eating, a good time and, vaguely, Old Europe. The waiters are in sombre black and green and the joint is jumping, but to a steady, controlled rhythm.

The menu is hand-lettered on a sheet of tough paper that measures 18 inches by 12 inches and needs



Underneath the arches: some serious eating action at the Oyster Bar at Grand Central Station, New York

to. It is updated daily and if there's a price marked against what you want, you got it. On the back are listed some 120 white wines and a mere nine reds, which is declaring one's hand (if you don't like fish, you can have chicken or steak or too bad). All the wines are American — Oregon and Texas feature, as well as California.

Faced with an impossible choice of 16 oyster varieties (among them Belons from Maine, Bluepoints, Apalachicola, Cheticamps, Cotuit, Malpeque and Vancouver), clams big and small and fish smoked on the premises (including lake sturgeon), I ordered that great delicacy, oysters from Maine, which were superb.

Under the heading "Today's Catch" were listed 37 kinds of fish including bluefish, catfish, grouper, mahi-mahi, pink snapper, scrod, shad (with or without roe), tautog, pompano and Virginia spots.

Ingredients were of the highest quality, the cooking simple but not simplistic (there was an adventurous sea-bass in a potato barquette), presentation handsome and service attentive and informed. All this goes on daily from 11.30am to 9.30pm — but not at weekends because then the Fulton Fish Market in lower Manhattan, source of most of the ingredients, is closed.

At £1 an oyster and an average

of £12 a main course, cheap it ain't, but you get value. I find it hard to believe there is another specialist restaurant in the world offering such variety in such an ambience, under such good management.

When I left New York in the mid-1960s, the Oyster Bar would not have merited such a claim. Its present owner, Jerry Brody, says that by the early 1970s the place had deteriorated into a "big coffee shop". Now it is a splendid bit of Americana. It contrives to be, like those other national treasures Mac West, Fred Astaire and the creatures of Charles Schultz, both indelibly American and universally accessible.

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Jonathan Clark applauds historian Frank O'Gorman's work

How democratic is our electoral system? We know that a few voices are raised in criticism of it, but we tend to disregard them with a knowing smile: centre parties clearly want to load the dice in their favour by the device of proportional representation. Apart from that, the amount of fundamental criticism of our electoral machinery is remarkably small. To an astonishing degree, we accept our "democratic" institutions because we believe in an historical theory of their origins.

Essentially, this explains how Britain moved from oligarchic corruption to modern liberty. The Hanoverian age, before 1832, was just as Hogarth drew it and Dickens wrote it up: Estanswill. Then the reformers got to work, and in a series of titanic struggles shaped our democratic consciousness: 1832, 1867, 1884, 1918 still stand as milestones on the road to democratic freedom. With universal suffrage, we arrive at the end of that road. There is nothing more to be said.

Except, of course, by the historian. He sees that the familiar story is really a matter of projecting modern values and practices back into the past, and condemning Old England for failing to fit them. But what happens if you examine the

Save the voter

VOTERS, PATRONS AND PARTIES
The Unreformed Electoral System of Hanoverian England, 1734-1832
By Frank O'Gorman
Oxford, £40

"unreformed" electorate in its own terms, and then look forward to modern practices? We discover that what we value as "democracy" is just as formal, just as much a question of convention, as what the Hanoverian did; but the conventions merely happen to be different. Historians have preferred to

denounce the electoral system rather than to explain how it worked at constituency level. That is, indeed, a peculiarly difficult scholarly feat. Voters are more easily written off as dependent, venal, few in number, and politically ignorant. To rescue them from this stereotype is not easy, if only a minority of seats were contested successively at general elections, which were anyway safely spaced at seven-year intervals. If only a minority of the adult male population possessed the vote, this mattered less, since general elections did not unsettle governments before the mid-19th century.

O'Gorman's central thesis is that the "electoral system was controlled by local families and connections, whose influence was exercised conditionally amidst habits of widespread political involvement". Far from a subservient electorate, patrons had to work to keep control. Obligations were reciprocal. Electoral activity was much more open, fluid, and effective than the figures - say, for contests - suggest. The electorate was considerable and politically literate. It may have been small in size, but its activity (and that of mobilized bystanders) was far more essential than appears.

Essentially, electoral activity was directed to the expression and resolution of local conflicts, not to changing Westminster governments. Local goals included resistance to as well as co-operation with elite control: reform in 1832 came from within the system. It successfully reconstructed itself. "It was not the fault of the electoral system which were responsible for reform in 1831-2 but an unprecedented conjunction of political circumstances."

How much of this is true of our own system, despite its obvious differences? Is the control of party organizations now less than that of patrons then? Are modern voters immune to "influence"? Are they better now with larger sums of public money than they were then with private money? Is the modern voter a paragon of political literacy? How local are his concerns? And yet, despite all these things, does our system not have a functional integrity despite its betrayal of most of its professed ideals?

Frank O'Gorman admits that the objective of his book is mildly polemical. "It is to offer a revisionist interpretation of the unreformed electoral system and of unreformed electoral politics. I wish to rescue the unreformed electorate from the Whig interpretation of English history and from the neglect, contempt, and ignorance of historians and propagandists."

In all of these aims it is a brilliant success. With superb scholarship, O'Gorman has written the most distinguished book on the subject since 1903: its implications for modern democratic government are as profound as they are understated.



Political progress: detail from one of Hogarth's "The Election" plates

A life halved by history

Andrei Navrozov admits bias on the newest crop of Pasternak books

Sister Life rendered a little more comprehensible. The translations used by the scholars were marvellously well-suited to the exercise, since a line of genius, properly sterilized ("Like copper globes of cinders"), sounds no different from a trite Russian proverb ("To live a life is not to cross a field") uttered by the ghost.

Both of the above utterances are from Peter Levi's biography, the latter "pre-existing proverb" translated by Robert Lowell, the former from a poem where Pasternak "seems to be wandering about with a candle", by Richard McKane.

BORIS PASTERNAK

By Peter Levi

Hutchinson, £17.95

BORIS PASTERNAK

The Tragic Years

1930-1960

By Evgeny Pasternak

Collins Harvill, £15.00

POEMS 1955-1959 and AN

ESSAY IN

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

By Boris Pasternak

Collins Harvill, £6.95

The latter, I repeat, is of no interest to anyone save students of quaint Russian sayings. The former (*Kak bronzovoi zoloi zharovlen* in the original: "Like brazen ashes off a brazier" in my version) is what Russian culture is measured by, and will be for millenniums to come.

The remarkable thing about Peter Levi's biography is that it introduces a new way of weaving the web of that ubiquitous myth. His book is not scholarly, contains no footnotes, and seems to have sprung from a marvellous mind like a young kangaroo. The thesis may be the same, but its banality is alleviated by wild inventions, preposterous inaccuracies, and unsurpassable analogies.

Which is why, in my view, it is the best biography of Pasternak currently available in English. For

the academic Pasternakologist not only perpetuates the banal myth of Pasternak, he turns him into a wishful replica of that Pasternakologist. By contrast, Peter Levi's replica of himself is more entertaining and far less oppressive.

Still, Levi knows no Russian. It is perhaps pedantic to point out elementary errors like *Mir Iskustva* for *Mir Iskustva* or *Dumaya* for *Dushnaya*. And yet, if Shakespeare is difficult enough for those who read him in English, imagine how impossible it would be to discover his poetry without knowing the original. In Pasternak, Elizabethan sophistication is multiplied by the complexity of modern European culture, and the average Russian may understand him no better than Levi does.

Average Russians, however, like average Englishmen, are readers, not writers, of literary biographies. Every Pasternak, the poet's son by a failed marriage, is the acknowledged guru of Pasternakology and, like his father in his Nobel years, an inexhaustible source of biographical mythopoeia. Not coincidentally, Collins Harvill has seized upon the second part of his scholarly study. In this century year, proclaimed by Unesco to be The Year of Pasternak, who cares about Pasternak before 1930? It was in 1958 that he got the Nobel, after all, and it was Collins Harvill that brought out *Zhivago* in English, in Manya Harari's translation. Who cares, and who is there to say, that the Nobel ennobled him approximately as a frock-coat button would have ennobled the Aphrodite of Praxiteles?

And what better way to tie it all together with a festive ribbon in 1990 than to commission new translations of the post-1930 poems from Ann Pasternak Slater, the poet's British niece, and her husband, the famous British poet Craig Raine, as well as to reissue the Harari translations of *Poems 1955-1959* and *An Essay in Autobiography* (1956) with a preface by Raine. In his preface, Raine describes early Pasternak as "risibly lofty guff", and it begins to seem that the phantasmagoria of scholarly mythopoeia, glimpsed here at its most sterile, trivial and false, would not have come to torment us had Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, *Zhivago*'s original publisher, not struck a routine business deal with Collins Harvill 33 years ago. Of course, such a view is full of personal animus.



In 1066 it took the Conqueror just a few months to roll up what was potentially the most strongly governed state in Europe, with a standing army and an efficient system of taxation. A major factor in this was the recognition by his European contemporaries that he had right on his side: though there was a teenage legitimate heir, a usurper occupied the English throne. In seeking to show how this came about, Mr Ronay's book has its serious historical side, though its appeal will be elsewhere.

How they continue to fascinate us, those noble blows away by the gales of the world: the last emperor, the exiled prince. We forget that in life such men were ghosts. It is in death that they come to life, for then the glamour of what might have been covers the monotony and the drunk, the last Sultan in his seraglio having Sherlock Holmes read to him to while away the long afternoons. In the men who were the last of the 600-year-old House of Cordic Ronay has the perfect candidates for what might have been: all they ever did was die

Labouring in the dark over Edward the elusive

Byron Rogers

THE LOST KING OF ENGLAND

By Gabriel Ronay

Boydell, £19.50

king. He entered it again briefly when, soon after reaching England, he died, leaving a small son, Edgar. That is all that is known about Edward the Exile, except that he spent 40 years in Hungary.

But why Hungary? It took the embassy sent to get him back three years to find the place. Ronay, a Hungarian himself, with much conjecture and some interesting detective work, tries to fill in those 40 lost years. In a collection of Saxon laws compiled for Henry I he found a reference to a stay in Kiev.

Now this makes sense. A Scandinavian dynasty ruled there, and the city was on one of the major trade routes of northern Europe. It is also known that about the same time members of the Hungarian royal family were in exile there, and from Kiev launched the invasion that regained their throne. And now we move into probably and perhaps, for it is Ronay's case that the Saxon prince accompanied them. There is no documentary evidence for this.

He visited his native land and found traces of an oral tradition referring to the castle of an English prince, presumably the sort of gift a grateful king would have made. Unfortunately, with growing confidence, he then starts talking about Edward's home-sickness in Hungary, and his overwhelming display of emotion when he finally set foot in England again. Yet again, all that

is known for certain is that he was in Hungary, got married, and came home, where he died suddenly.

Now the death is decidedly odd, for the chronicle mentions that before it he was kept from seeing the King. No names are mentioned and no reasons given, but Ronay points the finger at Harold, and holds him responsible for what he thinks was murder. Again it makes sense, all this book makes sense, except that there is no evidence for much of it. The result is that you are left with something not quite history and not quite fiction, and the author is not too particular about the distinction.

Could the Exile have changed history? The hard-headed William of Malmesbury wrote the one character assessment, "neither valiant nor a man of abilities". The best gloss on his son Edgar is that, despite the many rebellions of his long life, he was always pardoned by the Norman kings against whom he rebelled. So it is only romance that underwrites this book. History draws neat red lines under one man's name, but the end has come long before that.

Every ending is a beginning

Il faut être absolument moderne: Rimbaud's advice to artists which became the battle cry of his generation is still with us a century later. We need, though, to ask ourselves whether the meaning of the word "modern" has altered significantly since. It is an important question, because we are dealing with one of those ungrateful notions which seem to deteriorate in direct proportion with the frequency of their use. Even a cursory survey of art history books on 20th-century art reveals that the word "modern" has been lovingly incorporated in every title, and the current addition to an already impressive list makes no exception. It surpasses its predecessors by managing to squeeze the word in twice.

In the first instance, "modern" is used in a historical sense as a label for the 100 years of artistic development which constitute the subject matter of the book. Although contributed by different authors, the eight chapters covering the main European and American stylistic trends from "Impressionism" to now were brought to a common denominator by following a standard pattern: an introduction plus mini-biographies, succeeding each other like beads on a string.

A refreshing exception is the more idiosyncratic Chapter Two, "Symbolism and Art Nouveau" by Alastair MacIntosh. He starts from the premise that the vagaries of taste which dictate the making of art history rendered Symbolism and Art Nouveau unfashionable in the 1960s, and therefore they were ignored by the mainstream to the extent that in "an inexpensive book directed at the broad mass of art lovers" both are omitted.

But in George Heard Hamilton's seminal book on 20th-century art published in the 1960s, *Painting and Sculpture in Europe: 1880-1940* in the Pelican History of Art series, very much directed at the "broad mass of art lovers", Symbolism is treated as exhaustively as Fauvism or Cubism.

This brings into focus the important issue of method, justifiably

questioned not only by MacIntosh but by the editor as well. He argues in the preface that the often favoured linear historical approach, which regards art history as an apostolic succession of -isms, does not work, and this is proved by our inability to assess the last 20 years of development in art, referred to by the fashionable term Post-Modernism.

It would be appropriate to point out here that, while much art history is dominated by the linear concept of evolution, equally

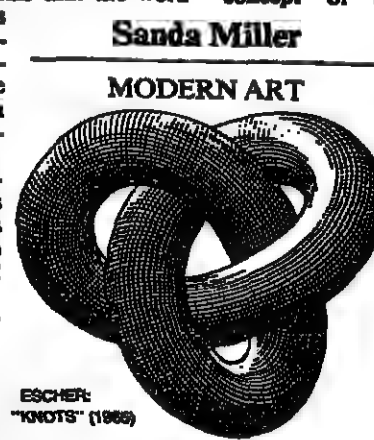
important alternatives, such as the popular cyclical theories based on the Hegelian idea of history as a spiral movement (inherited by Marxism), have always existed side by side.

Post-Modernism is the second instance when the word modern is used in the title of this book. But if we agree that the dictionary definition of the word modern as "of, or characteristic of, present or recent time", constitutes a reasonable working definition, post-modernism becomes a contradiction in terms.

Perhaps for that reason, Alastair Livingstone, author of the last chapter in the book, "Pluralism since the 1960s", who had also the task of drawing the conclusion and offering the much-needed apology for its coming into being, chose the term pluralism instead.

His chapter ends rather abruptly by acknowledging that at present we are faced with a situation when: "Every movement and art form initiated since the early 1960s continues to exist as a defensible proposition as we approach the last decades of our century." Yet in all this bewildering plurality there is a message of optimism in the very "openness and wealth of possibilities" on offer.

As to the conclusion: from our own vantage point, there can be no conclusion. Yet as our century draws to a close, even if we do not subscribe to the dialectical view of history, we could at least learn from the preceding *fin de siècle* that every end also signals a beginning. It must be left to the next generation to draw our conclusion.



Sandra Miller

MODERN ART

Impressionism to Post-Modernism

Edited by David Britt

Thames & Hudson, £14.95

An exciting fictional debut combining sexual intrigue, vanity, nemesis and unexpected death...

The Grown-Ups

VICTORIA GLENDINNING

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SUNDAY TIMES

'Lively, cleverly constructed and funny tale of the strange ways of men with women, and women with men'

THE TIMES

Out now in paperback £3.99



Some years ago an extraordinary general meeting of professional philosophers took place in the south of France. The plan was to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, the sharing of experience, the practice of what some call communication. The result was a disaster. The philosophers could talk for themselves, but not (so it seems) to each other. Several apocryphal stories are extant as to how the meeting finally broke down. My favourite is the one that tells of Gabriel Marcel seeking to explain his notions of grace and transcendence to some logical positivists, who interrupted him to ask why he didn't simply say what he meant. "I can't!" cried Marcel. "But if I had a piano here I could play it for you!"

Iain Crichton Smith is a pianist, in this sense, and I must refrain from shooting him, since he is doing his best. Born on the Isle of Lewis, in the Outer Hebrides, some 60-odd years ago, this poet has been bilingual from the start, publishing good work in English and Gaelic. The English poems often strike me as having an air of translation about them, as if Crichton Smith thought and felt in Gaelic. But such a remark does little justice to the craft and ease of his writing, so perhaps it would be truer to observe that there is a poet who gives every sense of having heard some absolute music which he makes it his task to convey to us in words:

Rainbow I love you, you are composed of light, primary colours, kisses, a bridge. Athlete and artist, you have perfectly curved into the rich ignorance of the future.

Of poets and pianos

POETRY

Robert Nye

THE VILLAGE AND OTHER POEMS

By Iain Crichton Smith

Corgi, £6.95

POET IN NEW YORK

By Federico García Lorca

Translated by Greg Simon and Steven F. White

Edited by Christopher Maurer

Viking, £16.95

Notice that the rainbow is being praised for its effort, which might be considered curiously Celtic. These lines are typical also of another strain in their author in that they engage with chaos and despair (that "rich ignorance"), but still find a way to sing about them. *The Village and Other Poems* rejects irony and most other fashionable modes to achieve this note. While the "other poems" are mostly lyrical, the title sequence is a Crabbe-like meditation on the particular rural world that gives limits to the poet's imagination. The whole seems to me an uncommonly truthful book,

even if the nature of its truth remains recalcitrant to prose explanation.

Lorca solved his own piano-playing problems by reference to the *duende*, that important part of Spanish gypsy dancing which sweeps audiences and performers off their feet. By the time he came to write *Poet in New York*, though, the absolute music had turned into jazz, and the intensity of his response to the modern world was getting in the way of any celebration of virtues, eternal or otherwise. These are poems of alienation and breakdown, the heart-breaking songs of a wounded nightingale. The new Viking edition prints the Spanish text and an English translation on facing pages, and augments this with letters that Lorca wrote to his family as he worked on the book. Some strange incidents emerge, notably that the poet was so paranoid at this period that he believed that Dali and Buñuel were conspiring against him: "Buñuel has made a little s...t of a film called *An Andalusian Dog*, and the 'Andalusian dog' is me." The best of these poems transcend such moods, transform their own surrealism, and come up singing splendidly, even if the burden of their song is death:

I know a ceremony so secret it requires an old rusty pin, and I know the horror of open eyes on the concrete surface of a plate.

Interesting, of course, that Lorca was to progress from this to trying to make sense of the death of his friend, the bullfighter Ignacio Sanchez Mejias, before meeting his own peculiarly senseless death.



John Russell Taylor wonders at the survival of some historic houses and their interiors

In that respect Charlotte falls right in line with the other houses in the book: they were each designed, not so much as a comfortable or grand living-space, but rather as a jewel cabinet within which an imposing collection could be stored and displayed. And above all, they were designed as settings — settings for a performance of life. For the early Romantic period was

What is most interesting and novel about the book is its insistence on this original integrity. The man, the place and the possessions were, when put together, a miracle of rare device. And while there are many studies of the architectural beginnings of the Gothic Revival, on the collections of the great Romantic collectors, and on the literary influence of Scott, Walpole and Beckford, not to mention more specialized considerations of early 19th-century antiquarianism, no one has ever brought it all together so vividly to re-create the period's vision of the high, good life. The men who had this vision knew who they were, knew how they wished to appear, and rejoiced in the belief that these two concepts were one and the same. Who nowadays can present himself to the world with a similar confidence?

The British Collector at Home, 1750-1850
By Clive Wainwright
Yale £35

Rocking rodents: Patrick Benson
Illustration for "Ratth" it Up" by Adrian Mitchell

**Edited by Sally Grindley and
Chris Powling
Walker Books, £9.95**

double-page spread. Thus Miss Cartledge, who specializes in fuzzy animals, illustrates a doggy-birthday poem by Peter Dixon, and has teddy-bears moving house for a poem by Alan Brownjohn. The most recent winner, Charles Fuge, supplies a gaggle of cheerful goslings for the introduction and a jungleful of animals for John Rice's "Bears Don't Eat Bananas". Understandably, though, the

All the royalties for the book go towards parents' accommodation at the Great Ormond Street Hospital — "a tribute", say the editors nicely, "from Mother Goose to Peter Pan".

**By Roger Mears and
Robert Swan**
Grafton, £5.99



It is an extraordinary story, told mainly by Mears in spare but vivid style. I felt the hair rising on my

we consume into miles," wrote Mears in his diary. Even the armchair traveller understands, by the end of this gripping book, what put the haunted look into the eyes of those four men 70 years ago.

Who were these youths? "Three farmers on their way to a dance, 1914". This is the caption beside the photograph as it is exhibited in Detroit in the 1980s. It is spotted there by a loquaciously alienated American who becomes obsessed with its significance. He learns that it was taken by the German photographer, August Sander. "The date sufficed to show that they were not going to their expected dance." A threefold story emerges piece by piece from the caption, the photograph, and the photographer's story.

Lefty vil

THREE FARMERS ON THEIR WAY TO A DANCE

By Richard Powers
Penguin, £4.99

the photograph among old family papers in Chicago: he never meets his fellow sleuth, but he too discovers a contemporary identity through brooding on the patterns of history. The farmers acquire characters and stories of their own, as they stumble through a disintegrating Europe. But their fortunes are seen through contemporary preoccupations, for "the realities of the past become true only when they intersect the

tion

Birch

**FARMERS ON
TO A DANCE**

and Powers
\$4.99

photograph together, and those of their two investigators. *One* of these, unhelpfully, is also called Peter; the other, still more unhelpfully, is given no name at all. Possibilities for confusion in the *sack-and-rider* reader abound.

WHEN THE KISSING HAD TO STOP

By Constantine FitzGibbon
Bellew, £5.50

Eric Ho

**WHEN TH
HAD T
By Constant
Belle**

MP, Julian Amory, as a "whole-
some reminder" that things could
go wrong for Gorbachev. Its prophe-
tic message is that electing a
Labour government is a high-risk
option.

FitzGibbon wrote of a world dominated by the aristocracy, London clubs and country weekends. His characters are so upper-class that they regard wearing a dinner jacket as being in faintly bad taste, "since nowadays every commuter changed for dinner the moment he got back to his house in the suburbs". There are numerous elderly air vice-marshals, powerful

Yankee businessmen, and upholders of family traditions

FitzGibbon
£5.50

... Among the villains, primacy of place is given to naive and/or traitorous left-wing intellectuals. The deceit, hypocrisy, delusions and untrustworthiness of intellectuals are underlined in every possible manner. In the Fifties, during the heyday of Ian Fleming, who was only interested in intellectuals of the "mad scientist" and arch-conspirator variety, FitzGibbon's emphasis took on a particular edge. They end up deservedly in Russian gulags, along with the literary women (another species detested by the author) who foolishly love them. In the camps they find unfaithful wives, naive politicians and businessmen.

There is in *When the Kissing Had to Stop* an impressive amount of wistful infidelity among the aristos, consummated off-stage, and a tremendous feel for those awkward social occasions such as when Felix Seligman, Jewish financier turned pious Catholic, entertains Lord Clonard, his wife's lover.

FitzGibbon saw certain things clearly. The erosion and then destruction of civil liberties is featured in the novel with silence and acquiescence. Police in the novel smoothly adapt to the new role of enforcing totalitarian oppression. No illusions about the good old British bobby here. His Russians are 100 per cent pure villains, somewhat of the James Bond variety, but lacking Ian Fleming's occasional delight in sado-masochistic scenes of torture and rape. FitzGibbon was much too much of a gentleman for such carryings on.



Lisanne Radice

diplomats, and the flashy lifestyle of Palm Beach jet-setters furnish the background.

The Dick Francis offering has the usual simple but effective ingredients, where the good are very good, and honest, and upright, and the bad are unashamedly wicked. The reader is *not* expected to question motives or the quirks of personality. As ever, Francis provides us with an intriguing up-to-date version of the old-fashioned certainties of John Buchan.

THRILLERS

Elmore Leonard, on the other hand, often encapsulates the strange illogicality and instability of an American society where rules need not apply or do not even exist. In *Split Images* he also produces an ambivalent picture of convoluted and deeply flawed personalities.

And yet the similarities between the two thrillers are startling. First, we have the whetting of the

appetite in the opening sentence. "I was following Derry Welfram at a prudent 50 paces when he stumbled, fell face down on the Tarmac and lay still." A classic Francis Leonard opening: "In the winter of 1981 a multi-millionaire by the name of Robinson Daniels shot a Haitian refugee who had broken into his home in Palm Beach."

But more intriguing of all, a characteristic not always associated

with Elmore Leonard, if synonymous with Francis, is the role of the hero as knight errant, a Sir Galahad pitting his wits against the evils of society.

Fulfilling a mission, righting wrongs, Tor Kelsey and Bryan Hurd, however different their approach, know that their cause is just, even though, as the former painfully comments, "the acid iron

Maxim Jakubowski's New Crimes (Robinson, £5.99) is an interesting and varied mixture of the private

eye, locked-room psychological and suspense offering. There is a good sprinkling of famous names, both British and American – Barnard, Cody, Lovesey, Pronzini and Paretsky to mention but a few. The problem with this type of short story is that it is difficult to develop the necessary complexities of plot, which is why the psychological *New Crimes* linger in the memory.

01-481 1920

[illegible]

THE ARTS

Millwall scores

Jasper Rees

The RBC is in all probability as unpopular on the terraces of Millwall Football Club as it is in certain parts of Westminster. Wednesday's rough-edged Screenplay Firsts drama, *Arrivederci Millwall*, repeated in fiction what, as long ago as 1977, a *Panorama* report on hooliganism had said in fact — that no one likes a Millwall fan.

And so says the terrace chant: "No one likes us — we don't care", except that they plainly do care. Concluding that the street way of reversing a trend of unfavourable media exposure was to make a programme about themselves, an independent company called Working Pictures (Millwall) Ltd took advantage of Channel 4's open-house commissioning policy to come up with last night's more flattering portrait.

If *No One Likes Us — We Don't Care* (Channel 4) is anything to go by, the club soon should be changed to "Ain't Misbehavin'". Dubbed the Lions because their team plays at the Den, contributing lines seemed eager to plead that, when it comes to what one did not want to see, the club was a "discarded" product, the Millwall way of cry is not a rant but a whinger.

And they were clearly not on their best behaviour simply for the cameras, as last season Millwall won the "community club of the year" title, which for decades would have been an accolade as Wimbledon winning the Cup.

With an emphasis on the club's not to expect of football talk, yesterday's Lions, with gloriously old-fashioned names like Alfie Bullen and Harry Pash, compared the old times with the new. Less evocatively named younger fans (Kevin Kempster and Carl Prosser) spoke just as earnestly about their unblemished attachment to the club, and this is where *No One Likes Us* made its mark: supporting Millwall was variously likened to "breathing oxygen", "a religion", and "a life sentence". "You feel safe there: it's your club," said one of them. If this revealing film does the trick, so will other people.

A footballer, believe it or not, encapsulated in two words what *This Is Me Since Yesterday* (BBC 2), a profile of artistic Glasgow at the beginning of its *Amor Mille* film, took 50 minutes to illustrate. Graeme Souness, manager of Rangers, and buyer of English players, described the move north as "a culture shock", a phrase which originally meant not much but which this early evening film of Glaswegian life invested with renewed resonance.

Richard Morrison reports on the annual showcase for the best young musical talent, which takes place in London next week

Widening the horizons of youth

Forget the glittering galas at the Garden, the pretty picnics at Glyndebourne, the magnetic maestro at the Barbican. For connoisseurs of true aural excitement, the really important events in Britain's classical music calendar happen all next week, twice nightly, in the Purcell Room.

It is the annual "Park Lane Group Young Artists and 20th Century Music Series". Not the world's pritiest title — doubtless if it were organized by the South Bank Centre it would be marketed under some charismatic label, such as *Interfacel* — but it does describe it accurately. The Park Lane Group is a small but irrepressible organization that has run these events for the past 34 years. (It took its name quite legitimately, from Park Lane House in Park Lane, which an arts-loving Bradford accountant loaned free to a group of Guildhall music students in 1956.)

The Young Artists are the cream of our music college graduates and undergraduates: about 160 audition each year, though there is room for only 15 soloists or ensembles. And the 20th Century Music is what they are encouraged to play: this year the programmes include 38 composers, 13 premieres, six specially commissioned new works. Not that many of the young musicians need much bullying to be adventurous. For one glorious week, youthful idealism is placed in perfect equilibrium with professional opportunism.

As the grey clouds of earning a living start to roll in, the brilliant Icelandic trombonist Sigurdur Thorbergsson may not easily find another major platform on which to deliver Stockhausen's *In*

Freundschaft, nor the pianist Jonathan Powell (currently an undergraduate at King's College, Cambridge) find it too easy to persuade other promoters to programme Brian Ferneyhough's *Lemma-Icon-Epigram*. In how many other concert series, one wonders pessimistically, will the obdurate Alistair Lomax be able to slot in James Clapperton's *The Foxe that Beguil'd the Wolfe under the Shadow of the Moon*?

Choosing the players and the featured composers (Edwin Roxburgh and Anthony Powers this year, plus Tippett, whose four piano sonatas are dotted throughout the week) is all done with a very British fairness by a committee. But no one really doubts that one man, John Woolf, has been the driving force behind the enterprise since 1957. Woolf has a double life: when not in the PLG's Covent Garden office, he is across the piazza in the Royal Opera House, seated somewhere among the fiddles in the gloom of the Covent Garden orchestral pit.

Quite a contrast, between promoting highly-motivated, starry-eyed youngsters, and being a small cog in the structured, production-line music-making of a big opera house? "Hmm, pretty good music, though," replies Woolf loyally. "Without question on either occupation is a grind." To Woolf and his committee goes credit for some remarkable lunches: the 20-year-old John Ogdon was chosen as a PLG Young Artist in 1958 (four years before his Tchaikovsky Competition win in Moscow); a promising Welsh lass called Gwyneth Jones sang for PLG in 1959; Roger Norrington appeared in 1970; the now-famous min-



John Woolf: providing professional opportunities. "An outstanding performer will always shine through."

imalist Steve Reich in 1974; guitarist John Williams in 1962, jazz pianist Stan Tracey in 1973, and so on.

Woolf modestly plays down his own sharp-eyed perception. "An outstanding performer will always shine through. Once we auditioned a flautist, and I wrote down 'yes' after she had played one bar."

However, he says that the choice has become much harder. "The general standard among those we hear is far higher than when we started: we almost never hear a mediocre audition, as we sometimes used to. That allows us to look for the real performers, those who can put across contemporary music with panache."

"Nevertheless, I would like to think that if a John Ogdon or a Dame Gwyneth Jones turned up for audition now, we would have the nous to pick them."

If the chosen do not come up to expectations, says Woolf, "it is usually because we have misjudged their character, not their ability. There was the brass group who auditioned well, then played dreadfully in performance. I managed to whistle out of them afterwards that they simply hadn't practised. Or the singer who, again, auditioned well, and did a good rehearsal on the morning of the recital. I said to her 'now go and have a good rest this afternoon.' 'Oh no,' she replied

brightly, 'I'm off to do a recording session'. Of course, when she sang in the evening her voice was extremely tired. That's what I call a deficiency of character."

The Park Lane Group receives funds from a variety of public sources and private benefactors, but Woolf has also used his contacts as a West End theatre musician to "create money": he organizes gala performances of West End musicals. "So far, we have done *South Pacific*, *Anything Goes*, and *Brigadoon* — a different sort of 20th-century music, but jolly good stuff. Well, perhaps not *Brigadoon*. In effect, you buy one of the previews, invite a royal guest, share the evening with a

charity, and create a committee of well-placed people who then sell tickets to their friends at outrageous prices. It's a good system."

Woolf will need substantial sums if his plans for expansion are to come to fruition. He sees 1992 as an opportunity for expanding the Young Artists and 20th Century Music series into European capitals, and also of establishing a European Young Artists Platform in Britain, as a way of showcasing brilliant new talent from around the continent. And he wants to increase the PLG's non-youth ventures, which have a high reputation. The PLG mounted John Ogdon's performance of the Sorabji's four-hour *Opus clavicembalisticum*.

Woolf also initiated the entertaining series of public interviews, "The Composer in Person", important for bringing to Britain such influential Americans as Aaron Copland, Morton Feldman, Steve Reich and George Crumb. "I particularly remember Crumb's appearance," says Woolf. "He's an easy-going fellow, takes his time over things. I sent him one letter inviting him, then another. No reply. I sent a telegram. No reply. Finally, in desperation a few days before the event, I telephoned America. 'Ah, Mr Woolf,' he said, 'I was thinking of getting in touch with you.' Well, he came and did the interview, and afterwards we all went back to the American cultural attaché's house. When we were seated, his wife turned to him and said, 'Well, George, you didn't tell them a thing, did you?' And George replied happily, 'Nope.'"

The PLG Young Artists and 20th Century Music series is at the Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1, from Monday to Friday, with recitals at 6.30 pm and 8 pm each evening.

MORALS

Martin Cropper

Morals go on trial

Radio 4 reconstructed two significant trials: that of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (Monday) and of the computer programmer *Roe Sandford in File on Four* (Tuesday). At stake were the freedom to read accounts of sexual congress and the freedom to visit discos without the police barging in and "fishing" drugs on one's person.

Mervin Griffiths-Jones QC met his match in Penguin's parade of expert witnesses, and the pliant and framers of West End Central came outstuck with Sandford, who had the nous to take notes at the time of his arrest and who could lay his hands on £15,000 to hire a decent brief.

Some victims of police malpractice are defended by court-ap-

pointed lawyers who know nothing of drugs and care little about their client's fate. Sandford, whose parents wrote *Calico Home* and *Up The Junction*, had the further advantage of understanding narrative, motive and so on. So, too, did D.H. Lawrence, and I would have listened to the much-publicized serialization of his overheard novel on *Book at Bedtime* (also Radio 4) if only my butter had not dissuaded me on moral grounds.

That joke has doubtless been around these 30 years, and would therefore have merited inclusion in *Pull The Other One* (Radio 2, Thursday), a kind of old joke book in which David Frost does his best to revive the art of the

music-hall MC while being drowned out by Frank Carson, Bernie Clifton and Ken Dodd. Impressive line-up, no?

The format, if such it can be called, consists of Frost reading out bizarre newspaper items and inviting his guests to explain them. This immediately triggers a barrage of terrible end-of-the-pier routines, each comic trying to unload his accumulated store of *bons mots* on topics as diverse as garden gnomes, mothers-in-law, foreigners and nudism. In an extraordinary way they are all trying to become the same person: the ideal stand-up who is never at a loss for a merry quip. The audience is recruited from seaside postcards. This is museum radio.

CONCERT

Hilary Finch

Gilbert Tribute

Queen Elizabeth Hall

He thought the use of the word "harsh" an affectionate, and he helped to change the course of British flute playing from the Thirties onwards. He taught William Bennett and James Galway, and was part of the "royal family" of Royal Philharmonic woodwind players which also included Leon Goossens and Jack Bryner. Geoffrey Gilbert, flutist, who died last year was commemorated on Thursday by no fewer than 20 of his pupils.

Susan Milne had co-ordinated a concert dominated by French music; and therein lies the clue to Gilbert's far-reaching influence.

Between the wars he had noticed that record companies consistently preferred French soloists to British. Gilbert listened to recordings of Marcel Moyse and René Le Roy, took lessons with the latter, and began to change his embouchure and articulation in order to mould the vibrant, singing voice of the French school.

David Nicholson and Douglas Townsend gave us a taste of it in the carol-like *Trio des Jeunes Insoumis* by Berlioz, a pastoral interlude accompanied by Caryl Thomas, harp, whose playing also graced Roussel and Debussy. The more sophisticated, more oblique beauty of the instrument was displayed in Roussel's *Serenade Op. 30* (William Bennett, joined by David Nolan, Graham Oppenheimer and Robert Bailey), with the sustained strains of the flute suspended above sustained non-vibrato in violin and viola.

It was an evening of interest and accomplishment. If Mozart's D Major Flute Quartet (Michel Debost) had been a damp start, Peter Lloyd and Trevor Wye's duelling in Honneger's *Rhapsodie* (with Theo King and Ian Brown) was testimony to the subtlety of phrasing and dynamic shaping encouraged by Gilbert. And Susan Milne's five contours, vivid contrasts of register and a vibrato focused with scarcely any breathlessness provided the most beautiful playing of the evening in Debussy's *Sonata for Flute*.

It was a particularly nice piece of programming to assemble a flute choir of 20 Gilbert pupils for a final curtain call to the life and works. An arrangement of Elgar's *Serenade for Strings* for every possible size and shape of flute was followed by a witty, piping transcription of the Entrance of the Queen of Sheba. Quite an exit.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Romeo and Juliet

The Pit

Barring yet more hesitation and delay, this is the last production Terry Hands will offer London before the white smoke goes up from the Barbican chimneys, announcing his successor to the RSC throne; and a pretty gripping evening it is, vivid and pacy, at times almost too pacy. So keen is one watchman to communicate Juliet's suicide that he proclaims her still "warm" from five paces away, forgetting he is wearing gloves.

Farrah's Verona, with its grittily concrete back arch, looks like the patio of a villa for upmarket tourists; and a pretty variegated crowd has gathered there. The Capulet yobs only need boomer boots to pass for soccer hooligans. The nobles speak straight Oxford, the Nurse and Peter come from Mumsnet, and the home of David O'Hara's Mercutio is urban Scotland. One imagines this pale, uneasy creature transposed to some Glasgow bar, buttonholing the clientele with sexual innuendo, then suddenly, unpredictably clobbering someone with a broken bottle. He is a most unfunny Mercutio, but not untypical of this Verona.

It is a volatile place, with a demonstrative citizenry. Touches

Too great the love

quickly become cuffs, and cuffs blows. When Mercutio insults Jannie Henslow's Nurse, his reward is a thrack in the genitals, and his reply to that is to goose her with a bluntstick that nowadays might land him in court. Bernard Horsfall's superficially genial Capulet sums up much, checking the unruly Tybalt with a violence that almost breaks up the party he is throwing.

One might have expected a Romeo and Juliet whose tragic flaw was that they shared the local recklessness and emotional ferocity. Instead, Terry Hands sees them primarily as uncomprehending victims of Veronian insensivity, external chance — and, not least, their own immaturity. They are a vulnerable pair, unwontedly near the tender ages Shakespeare meant them to be, and a touching one too.

Perhaps as a result, Mark Rylance does seem less peppy, even a bit wetter than Romeo should be. True, he can show temper when pushed to extremes, as he is by the murderous Tybalt, whom he kills with real venom, and then almost eviscerates with his hands. But in love he develops a querulous throb which irritated me as much as it did Mercutio. It was necessary to remember that it was not us he was marrying, but Juliet; and impressionable girls have odd tastes.

In any case, a definite chemistry develops between him and Georgia Slowe's Juliet. Indeed, the climax of the balcony scene is not verbal at all, but a look that goes on and on and on, as if they were mesmerized by each other. Most of the time I, for one, was so taken with Miss Slowe that none of her lover's gasps and gulps greatly mattered.

She really looks 13, and acts it too, giggling with the servants and playing childhood games, like tip-toeing along the lines of the pavement as if on a tightrope. She is innocent and open in and out of love — and, of course, all unprepared for what happens to her. One moment her eyes are sparkling at the prospect of Romeo's arrival; the next, she is red-faced and screaming in disbelief at his banishment; and the next her appalling father is, believe it or not, spanking her for disobedience.

She has not yet the range that she will doubtless develop: she is



Undying love: Rylance and Slowe

better at communicating excitement than pain, still less the gravity Juliet seems to acquire near the end. Yet that is not altogether inappropriate, given the production's emphasis. This *Romeo and Juliet* is less a tale of two great lovers than of two very young people faced with unbearable pressures before they can understand them; two children who — dare one say it? — might even have grown out of the love that now seems to them so all-absorbing. It is a tragedy of the unformed.

Playing with truth

Jeremy Kingston

Blood Relations

Old Red Lion

Oedipus killed one parent and tragedies are written about him; Lizzie Borden killed both parents and is immortalised in four jokey lines. Assuming, that is, she did kill them; the jury at her trial acquitted her, unable to accept that a nicely brought-up Massachusetts spinster should take an axe and give her mother 40 whacks.

"When the job was nicely done, She gave her father 41." In fact, 39 whacks and 13 respectively, but the poet did not let accuracy stand in the way of a neat rhyme.

This tense and impressive play by the Canadian writer Sharon Pollock looks beyond the family verse to imagine what might have caused such outbursts of wrath. The first can be readily understood: resentful stepmother (not mother, who died when Lizzie was an infant) encouraging her grabby family to dip into the Borden wealth. But to set about her father later the same day is what gives the crime, as Henry James would have said, the extra turn of the screw.

The play begins 10 years later, in 1902, with Lizzie still living in the family home with her elder

sister, well played by Christine Kimberley as a portrait of spineless decorum, who daily asks: "Did you, Lizzie? Did you?" The young Boston actress with whom Lizzie is now enjoying a "fission" also wants to know the truth, so Lizzie teasingly consents to a re-enactment of the events, with the actress playing Lizzie and she herself playing the maid whose evidence helped to free her.

This unlikely game is a hurdle to our belief, but once it has been jumped the stifling conditions of life in the Borden home develop their own momentum. In seeing Lizzie as a woman struggling against a wide range of pressures to conform, the author creates the character of a rebel unable to submit without losing her identity. Susan Franklyn as the Actress Lizzie gives a beautifully sustained performance of tension gradually coming to its snapping-point, her peevish smiles peeling away to show the new-forged steel in her heart.

She is finely partnered by Judith Scott as the real Lizzie, whose memory of her father's killing of an awkward peppy chimes with Franklyn's simpler speech about her murdered birds. The writing contains many such parallels and the balance of rage and light relief is excellently found in Riel Karmy-Jones's direction. Recommended.

Fine tribute well portrayed

DANCE

John Percival

Ashton Gala

Sadler's Wells

Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet performance last night was a gala in memory of its founder choreographer, Frederick Ashton. Its president, Princess Margaret, was guest of honour at the event to raise funds towards a studio above the new Lillian Baylis Theatre that will bear Sir Fred's name.

Rightly, the main work was the biggest of those which Ashton created specially for this branch of the Royal Ballet. *The Two Pigeons* is one of a group of dusty though once famous ballets to which he gave fresh life by new choreography which respected their stylistic origins but infused a contemporary sensibility into characterization and plot.

Sandra Madgwick, who danced the young heroine at this performance, has become one of its outstanding interpreters, thanks to the bubbling humour she finds for the early scenes, the indignant determination with which she fights for her man when the glamorous gypsy lures him away, and the fearful depth of love she shows at their reunion.

Her face becomes an open book on which every feeling is legible; her sparkling bravura technique presents Ashton's steps brightly, vividly and musically. Michael O'Hare gives a lively account of her young man but seems too good natured to convince me that he would go rusting after a wicked vamp.

Chenca Williams plays this gypsy enchantress with a wholehearted (if slightly tongue-in-cheek) enjoyment of her shimmying naughtiness. Apologies, by the way, that a mishap to my notice of *Las Hermanas* this week mixed up her and Mireille Bourgeois.

I'm amazed that on such a gala occasion the company could not put out another of Ashton's ballets to complete the bill. The obvious choice would have been *Valse Nobles et Sentimentales*, his first creation for this company, and overdue for another showing. We were offered, Fokine's *Les Sylphides* in a sound but occasionally plodding revival.

Karen Donovan, in the first waltz, was the best of the soloists; simple and unforced, except for some strange poking movements of her hand in one descending



Gypsy dance: a wholehearted performance from Chenca Williams

phrase. It seemed perverse of Yannick Néppel, a French guest star for this programme, to choose the prelude for her solo; she made little of it (including some sadly perfunctory *assemblés*), whereas on past form I would have expected the mazurka to suit her better.

Roland Price partnered her handsomely and has an engagingly soft manner in his solos but not enough underlying strength.

I imagine that Ashton would have been tickled pink to learn from a bizarre alleged chronology printed in the programme that he once worked as a dancer under Nijinsky. He should have been so lucky!

DISASTER STRIKES AT THE DONKEY SANCTUARY

On Wednesday 20th December 1989 during a storm, a lightning strike caused the Sanctuary's computers to literally "blow up". This could not have come at a worse time as hundreds of people have written in with donations and orders for Christmas.

The Donkey Sanctuary would like to apologise to anyone who has written in and has not received a reply. It is hoped that the Sanctuary will be able to replace the computer, worth over £50,000 by early February, and in the meantime staff have been working flat-out over Christmas and the New Year to answer as many letters and orders as possible.

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John Higgins

Verdi: Rigoletto
Anderson/Pavarotti/Nucci, Orch.
and Chorus Teatro Comunale
Bologna/Chailly (Decca 425 864-2)
(2 CDs)

Verdi: Rigoletto Dessi/Lo
Scola/Zaccanaro, Orch. and
Chorus La Scala, Milan/Muti (EMI
CDS 7 49605 2) (2 CDs)

Halevy: La Juive
Varady/Anderson/Carreras/
Gonzalez/Furlanetto,
Philharmonia/Almeida (Philips 420
190-2) (3 CDs)

Rival *Rigolettos* emerge hot on one another's heels from Italy's two leading opera houses — and very different they are. Riccardo Chailly in Bologna goes for the all-star cast, including Luciano Pavarotti as the Duke, returning to a role he recorded more than 15 years ago, also for Decca. June Anderson and Leo Nucci are by his side, and Decca, with a trace of smugness, announces this is the trio about to appear in the Met's forthcoming production of *Rigoletto*.

Riccardo Muti at La Scala favours a more austere way with Verdi. He stands by his current favourite baritone, Zaccanaro, but brings in two young Italian singers, Daniela Dessi and Vincenzo Lo Scola. According to his usual custom, Muti cleanses the score of all the additional high notes that have accreted over the years, and has his singers deliver exactly what Verdi wrote for them.

Chailly's greater licence certainly makes his more exciting and popular of the two sets. Much of this is due to the highly extrovert performance from Pavarotti. The tenor sounds not only match-fit, but positively hungry to attack the notes before him. In the first encounter with Gilda this Duke is clearly out to sweep her off her feet, and in the cabaret of the following scene Pavarotti displays some amazing notes. Occasionally he presses the voice a bit too hard, but it would be difficult to imagine a more vigorous or resplendent performance.



Match-fit and hungry: Luciano Pavarotti photographed at the *Rigoletto* recording session in Bologna — an extrovert Duke sweeping Gilda off her feet in a resplendent performance

June Anderson's Gilda was heard at Covent Garden not long ago, and is another very assured performance. She does not aim at the wistfulness of a Cotrubas, but prefers a girl of stronger metal, letting the notes of "Caro nome" trail behind her like sea spray caught in the sun. Leo Nucci, without probing Rigoletto's misery (or spleen) like some of his predecessors, is thoroughly satisfying.

The weaknesses of the set come in two parts which should have been easy enough to cast: Maddalena and Sparafucile. Shirley Verrett is inadequate as the sister, and Nicolai Ghiaurov lacks all menace as the hired dagger. Together they put a momentary

slackener on the high-tension conducting of Chailly and the Bologna forces who have been playing so well for him.

Riccardo Muti also begins at a great rate with the Scala orchestra, although his timing for the first scene is within seconds of Chailly's. Thereafter he takes a calmer and darker view of the opera. The Scala strings are heard at their best when despair is in the air, as Rigoletto rounds on the courtiers. Giorgio Zaccanaro, his baritone coping easily with this high-lying role, is at his most imposing here. Elsewhere a little more emotion could have been allowed through.

The young tenor, Vincenzo Lo

Scola, has been a Pavarotti replacement in the theatre before now, but there can be no pretending that he has the vocal swagger of the real article. His tone is too often spindly and he is at his weakest in the Act I duet with Gilda, "E il sol dell'anima", where Pavarotti carries all before him. Daniela Dessi sings prettily enough for most of the time as Gilda, but like Lo Scola never seems to arrive at a characterization to impose itself on the mind and ear. The Maddalena and Sparafucile (Martha Senn and Paola Burchuladze) are a notch up on those of Decca, but scarcely world class, with Burchuladze once again failing to get his bass around the Italian vowels. Muti

himself provides the main reason for acquiring the set for those who want a de-glamorized *Rigoletto*.

Anyone trying to produce a "definitive" edition of Halevy's best-known opera, *La Juive*, would have a mighty task before them. The Philips version, begun in 1986 and then interrupted by the ill health of Jose Carreras in the role of Eleazar, Jew and jeweller, carries well over three hours of music. But the accompanying booklet admits that the available score has still been quite heavily cut. And quite right too.

Halevy was an almost exact contemporary of Meyerbeer, and he composed here on a Meyerbeerian scale: five acts with a central ballet, massive chorales,

a punishing aria for the tenor (the score's most famous number, "Rachel, quand du Seigneur") at the end of Act IV, and a shock denouement when the Jewess dies. But amidst the sprawl there is much fine music, and not all of it for the fanatical Eleazar, portrayed by Carreras in ringing tone almost too noble for the part. Carreras made his last stage appearance in the part on Christmas Eve 1920, and closer to our time Richard Tucker and Tony Poncelet have recorded bits of it.

Both Rachel, the "Jewess", and her rival, the Princess Eudoxie, have notable numbers, including the Act III Bolero for the latter,

CLASSICAL UPDATE

Carter: Night Fantasies
Adams: *Harpyian Games*
Oppens (Music & Arts CD 604)
Brilliantly luminous and illuminating playing from Oppens in contrasted modern American masterpieces, maximal and minimal, with an assortment of witty, fast, touching tangos hung in the divide.

Mozart: Arias Lott, LMP/Globe (ASV DCA 683). A winning Felicity Lott, though rather dimly supported, in a range of arias from early (one from *Mitridate*) to late, from inevitable (*Exultate, jucunde*) to unfamiliar (the choice inserts for Louise Villeneuve in *Il barbero di buon core*).

French, Magistrate: Violin
soprano Dumay, Colard (EMI CDC 7 49850 2). Dumay's tight line tugs at the rhythm of the French sonata to find more than opulence: a tonic performance. The big Magistrate sonata suffers by having its dependence on the French exposed, but establishes its own sombre thoughtfulness.

Late Violin Concertos
Symphonie espagnole Dumay, Orchestra/Plasson (EMI CDC 7 49853 2). The concerto form cramps Dumay's rhythmic freedom, but these are still rousing, invigorating performances, with Plasson bringing out the rough-hewn individuality of Lato's orchestra.

taken in flowing style by June Anderson. Just before there is a persuasive duet for the pair of them, with Julia Varady mightily impressive in the title role. Halevy's casting is odd: there is a second high-lying tenor part, in which Dalmacio Gonzalez has fewer difficulties with the notes than with the French, no baritone, and a major bass part, the Cardinal Brogni (Ferruccio Furlanetto), who dispenses curses like confetti. Antonio de Almeida, who tackled this opera earlier with Tucker, makes a powerful advocate for the work with the Philharmonia and the Ambrosian Opera Chorus. A hugely enterprising set and a major contribution to the repertoire from Philips.

JAZZ UPDATE

Almeida/Berboese-Lima/Bryd
Music of the Brazilian Masters
(Concord Picante CCD-4389)
Three guitarists meet for a folksy celebration of music by composers as diverse as Villa-Lobos and Antonio Carlos Jobim. Though the arrangements sound bland at first hearing, the understated playing yields much charm.

Ruby Braff/Dick Hyman Music From My Fair Lady (Concord CCD 4393). Scintillating interpretations to set alongside *My Fair Lady*, Braff's trio album from earlier this year.

Panama Francis & His Savoy Sultans *Gatin' In The Grooves* (Black & Blue 233-320). Unashamed, uncomplicated riffs and swing from the drummer's 1979 line-up, boasting such veterans as trumpeter Francis Williams and alto player Norris Turney.

Toned-down histrionics

Less is more. The old truism comes to mind over the new album from Pharoah Sanders, a saxophonist who has always had a weakness for the histrionic grand statement.

Once fond of out-lyering Albert Ayler, he has moved a long way towards the mainstream over the past two decades. Old habits die hard, however, and his recent concerts have shown that he has not completely shed his habit of bludgeoning audiences into submission.

A Prayer Before Dawn is not the first album to reveal the more introspective side of his character. But this performance boasts a sense of economy which sets it apart from previous outings.

Clive Davis
Pharoah Sanders *A Prayer Before Dawn* (Theresa TR127)

While long-time Sanders fans may find this too enigmatic, the rest of us can wallow in its languid cadences.

There is an appealing, *ad hoc* quality to the pieces, most of which started out as first-take duets between Sanders and the pianist, William Henderson. Henderson later overdubbed synthesizer arrangements which are, fortunately, too rudimentary to be a distraction.

"After The Rain", the Coltrane

composition which closes side one, actually comes from another date altogether — a live duet in Frankfurt between Sanders and his usual pianist, John Hicks. No recording dates are given, and the fact that the track makes a suitable finale to the static, suite-like arrangement of the opening tracks is presumably the result of quick thinking by producer Allen Pittman.

After hearing the saxophonist in so many conventional quartets and quintets, the sound of these spacious modal compositions comes across as all the more atmospheric.

True, they come close to New Age background music at times, tipping over the edge altogether on Henderson's solo feature "Softly

for Shyla". But there is an inward calm about Sanders's own playing which lifts most of the music out of the rut.

To prove that he is still capable of summoning up the furies, he switches to a Spanish double-reed instrument on "Midnight At Yoshi's", a Moorish vamp which meanders against a backdrop of drums, tabla and sarod.

Most surprising of all is the decision to cover the schmaltzy, romantic pop hit, "The Greatest Love of All".

George Benson poured a triple helping of syrup over the song some years back. Sanders's eloquent solo, straying very little from the melody, manages to endow it with more dignity than it really deserves.



New economy: Pharoah Sanders, still accentuating the introspective

Perfect balancing act

BAROQUE

Stephen Pettitt

Purcell: Dido and Aeneas Von Otter/Varcoe/Dawson/Rogers/English Concert & Choir/Pinnock (Deutsche Grammophon Archiv 427 624-2) (compact disc)

Lambert: Lescaut de Tenebrae Brett/Crook/Rime/Stutzmann/Foutou/Buraghi/Piveteau (Virgin Classics Veritas VCD 7 90821-2) (2 compact discs)

In short, Trevor Pinnock's new recording of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* is a gem of a performance. Its secret is that the balance between intimacy and momentousness seems just about perfect. The scale of the voices Pinnock uses is neither on the one hand too inflated nor on the other too schoolgirlish. Despite the fact of the famous performance by girls at Josias Priest's boarding school in 1689, this is a chamber opera about mature people and their emotional needs. Anne Sofie von Otter is perfectly cast as Dido: she is neither a Jessye Norman nor an Emma Kirkby, but has a voice of modest power and vast richness. Moreover she uses it to be an imperious queen (as Norman and, to an extent, Dame Janet Baker do) but a distinctly human one. Kirkby's recorded performance, with Andrew Parrott, was pretty enough, but she did sound rather like that paradox, a virgin siren. Von Otter's pacing and shaping of the part is intelligent and inspired, and another advantage of this version is that Stephen Varcoe is no idiotic Aeneas but a plausible fellow, eager to do what he thinks morally best.

The master stroke, however, has to be the casting of Nigel Rogers in the role of the Sorcerer, a decision based on Restoration stage traditions and on the evidence of a late 18th-century manuscript. All this is explained in Curtis Price's excellent accompanying essay.



Distinctly human queen: an inspired Dido from Anne Sofie von Otter

Rogers, who also sings the part of the First Sailor (again, something historically justified), produces exactly the right timbre for the Sorcerer to sound convincing, not merely pantomimic. Lynne Dawson gives a sympathetic, clear-voiced Belinda, the English Concert (with oboes and bassoons added) and Choir make a disciplined yet warm sound, and Pinnock directs with a sure sense of dramatic pacing.

Michel Lambert, Lully's father-in-law, died the year after Purcell. His influence on French music was great; he became chief musician of Louis XIV's Chamber and he was a progenitor of the long, highly elaborate vocal lines which reached their expressive maturity in the work of Rameau a century and more later. These settings of the nine Lessons for the Tenebrae Offices will not lift the spirits, but in their sombre way they are beautiful if undramatic creations. They are sung here by a strong team of four singers,

Noeme Rime (soprano), Nathalie Stutzmann (contralto), Charles Brett (countertenor) and Howard Crook (tenor).

Rime's relaxed line in the first two Lessons of Good Friday is beguiling, though a measure less so than Crook's in the Third Lesson; perhaps one associates the solo male voice more readily with the rich, unfussy virtuosity of his New Age blues guitar technique. The dry, low-budget production of *Bad Influence* highlights the telling economy of Crook's approach and emphasizes the wondrous cohesion of a band which, in essence, Crook and bassist Richard Cousins have led since the mid-1970s. By combining a stringing, Albert Collins-inspired authentic playing style with an educated range of influences stretching from Eric Clapton to Sam and Dave, Crook has contributed a fresh body of possibilities to the otherwise well-worn blues form.

The continuo team, led by Ivete Piveteau at both harpsichord and organ, is not always as unanimous as it might be, but it makes an apt, firmly supportive sound.

Deceit behind the carnival

CLASSICAL

Paul Griffiths

Schumann: Carnival Berlin RSO/Götte (Koch Schwann 311030 H1)

Schumann: Sonata no.3, Fantasy Marks (Nimbus NI 5161)

trated by various hands and choreographed by Fokine for Diaghilev. The same composer is also responsible for showing the problems in scoring something as intangible as "Ariquin", while Glazunov produces a souping up of "Chopin" for solo clarinet, harp and strings. Sometimes, though,

the lesson in changing taste is conveyed with greater fascination. Just for a moment, for instance, one catches sight of Rimsky-Korsakov in a proudly coloured "Florestan", and there is also a vivid Russian brilliance, with glockenspiel, in Alexander Tcherepnin's "Papillons".

Four of the pieces are also included in re-orchestrations by Ravel, done for Nijinsky in 1914. Ravel is a little more tactful, although he does make "Paganini" a virtuoso piece for the brass, besides which Lyadov's string solution seems a bit cowardly. Altogether the release intrigues as much as it appals.

Alan Marks's Schumann recital provokes mixed feelings of a slightly milder sort. The recording quality is extraordinary; there is an almost shockingly raw sense of a piano being played in an almost empty room. I also admire Marks's discretion — the objective clarity, cool and rhythmic evenness of his legato playing — as much as the virtuosity he needs and shows in the F minor sonata. But that work arguably also needs more flash and variety, and the C major Fantasy, particularly in its middle movement, comes to seem bewildering for its patchwork construction and squariness of phrasing.

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 11 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

THE ROBERT CRAY BAND

Robert Cray is not only the most important and innovative black blues artist since the first generation of electric blues like Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker, he is also the most successful. Both *Strong Persuader* (1987) and *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark* (1988) are certified million-sellers. But it was with the lesser-known *Bad Influence* (1985) and *Bad Influence* (1984) that Cray rewrote the book by blending the nuances of a surprisingly under-rated soul singing voice with the rich, unfussy virtuosity of his New Age blues guitar technique. The dry, low-budget production of *Bad Influence* highlights the telling economy of Cray's approach and emphasizes the wondrous cohesion of a band which, in essence, Cray and bassist Richard Cousins have led since the mid-1970s. By combining a stringing, Albert Collins-inspired authentic playing style with an educated range of influences stretching from Eric Clapton to Sam and Dave, Cray has contributed a fresh body of possibilities to the otherwise well-worn blues form.

NEXT WEEK: The Cure, Deep Purple

CROSBY, STILLS, NASH & YOUNG

With their airy harmonies and earnest political idealism, the Anglo-Californian "super-group" of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young was the musical personification of the Woodstock generation. Crosby Stills & Nash struck out with an eponymous 1969 debut that comprised much pleasant acoustic-rock noodling such as "Marrakesh Express", but it was the arrival of Neil Young which finally put some lead into the group's pencil, and resulted in the 1970 follow-up, *Deja Vu*, one of the finest monuments ever erected to the flowering of the hippie dream. That same year Young released his landmark solo album. After the Goldrush, an epic catalogue of melodic rockers and ballads sung in his uniquely tremulous, keening voice, Stephen Stills (1970) was a passable effort, but Young was the only one to carve a solo career of permutations, eventually turning up (minus Young) like Banquo's ghost at Live Aid with hairlines, waistlines and harmony lines all sadly gone to pot.

ROCK UPDATE

The Only Ones The Peel Sessions Album (Strange Fruit SFR 102)

Guitarist John Parry reckons that these 16 songs, recorded at BBC sessions for John Peel's Radio One show, are more representative of the Only Ones sound than the equivalent album versions. Adolescent singer-songwriter Peter Perratt's visions of rampant, sensual gloom have certainly never sounded more wrecked.

The Velvet Underground The Best of the Velvet Underground (Nerve 541 164-1)

Sensible collection, helpfully subtitled "Words and music of Lou Reed", which revisits the catalogue that launched a thousand garage bands: "I'm Waiting for the Man", "White Light/White Heat", "Sweet Jane", "Rock and Roll" et al.

Bobby Brown Dance!... Ya Know It (MCA MGS 6074)

Brown spent more weeks on the UK chart than any other act in 1988. This compilation of 12m mixes includes all the big hits "My Prerogative", "Don't Be Cruel", etc — together with material from his US debut *King of Stage*. Efficiently pneumatic dance-floor mixes.

GARDENING

Francesca Greenoak asked six well-known gardeners what promises they had made for the new year

Well-rooted resolutions

New Year's resolutions are a capacious hold-all of ideas, from the all-purpose self-injunctions to be good, down to particulars such as weekly weeding or cutting the hedge. Most people make a few resolutions, but many founder even before Twelfth Night. For guidance on longer-lasting resolve, I asked several well-known gardeners about their intentions for the year ahead.

Beth Chitto has made an art of growing unusual plants in her extensive gardens, cultivated on a difficult piece of ground in Essex — cold and windswept in winter, with dry infertile areas interspersed with boggy waterlogged ground. Her skill lies in understanding the nature of the plants she grows, and making sure each is placed in a habitat in which it can thrive. Her philosophy is that it is both aesthetic and practical to put plants into the conditions to which they are adapted. She gets her information from reading and travel, and this year she has resolved to apply some of her most recent travel in Australia and America.

Having made herself a new long bed about 30ft (10m) by 5ft (1.5m) in an area of the garden which has "poor gravelly soil — quite similar to the rubble conditions one might find on moving to a new house", she has decided "not to put anything there which needs watering, but to create a tapestry effect with dry climate plants — not necessarily all from the same country". Having covered the bed over with gravel and placed some large stones on top, she has begun to plant "principally for foliage, though there are flowers in her season".

She chooses grasses such as the blue *Festuca glauca*, the tall, North American *Chasmananthus latifolius* (often seen as *Uniola latifolia*), rosettes of sempervivens of different kinds, mounds of thymes, ranunculus, and small lewisias. Introducing plants suited to similar conditions although not geographical neighbours gives her the "stimulating and romantic thrill of contriving completely new combinations for the garden".

Organic gardener Chris Algar has built up a set of resolutions which keeps him and his wife self-sufficient in flowers, fruit and vegetables. First priority is to "compost

everything possible". Growing green manures in between garden crops is also high on his list, as is dotting the flower garden with limonchrysus, helichrysum, greater knapweed, buddleia, and teasels which attract hoverflies (which prey on aphids) and bees.

A plan of action, taking account of personal preferences, double cropping and rotations for different crops, is also important. This month, Chris and his wife will be sowing broad beans, Aquadulce Claudia in pots in the greenhouse, to be planted outside in March, when he will start off a few dwarf French beans inside. Sowing a kind without much foliage, such as Selkirk, he gets early crops without taking up too much space. Another practice he resolves to continue is to use some finely woven horticultural fleece, both as a barrier against carrot fly and to make a frame around the runner beans — "this little bit of protection gives them a really good start". Another resolution involves experimentation to discover a seed compost which is not environmentally destructive in the way peat extraction is. He is ideally something he can make for himself, recycling some part of his garden waste or locally available product.

School is out at the Oxford Botanic Gardens, but the head gardener, Timothy Walker, is thinking ahead. "Usually I don't get around the walls often enough: we prune in winter and leave it at that. We always leave some places untouched for the birds to nest in, but this year I want to go around the wall at least once a month, giving the plants a bit of shaping or pruning, before things grow into each other in an untidy tangle."

He also intends to keep his secateurs at hand "to restrict overgreen shrubs and dwarf trees which quickly dominate and crowd beds". Lawns too will get extra attention: the edges of the beds will be levelled and repaired, and the grass cut more regularly. He also plans "to give more attention to the unusual fruits in the garden: make jellies of quince and medlar, and steep service berries (*Sorbus torminalis*) and whitty pears (*Sorbus domestica*) in brandy". Finally, he says: "You can get so insular just working in your own place — I mean to visit lots of other gardens, not only for new



Two from the best: Christopher Lloyd's green-winged orchids (front) and Rosemary Verey's Dames violets and foxgloves planted by a Leyland Cypress hedge

plants, but to see plants I know grown in new ways."

At the National Centre for Organic Gardening (at Ryton on Don, Durham, County Durham), the chief gardener Sue Stuckland has worked out a set of resolutions to guide her through 1990. Her first and most important priority is to go around the garden every day. "There is no substitute for keeping a close eye on things — you can nip any trouble quickly before it becomes a difficulty if you become aware of it in good time."

Another overall stricture is not to be too impatient. "One always wants to get going as soon as possible in spring, but there really is no point putting in seeds or plants until the soil warms up." She also aims to look over the machinery used in the garden: "Nearly all old mowers will work on unleaded petrol, but they must be decoked first." When the

mowing begins in earnest "the lawn will be out when they require it, not simply on a rota basis which takes no account of what the grass is doing. If it's growing fast, we might cut twice in a week. In dry weather when growth is arrested, we could leave it for two or even three weeks. When we mow, we keep the blades at a 1-1.5in and just shear off a small amount which we leave to be taken back into the ground by the worms."

Christopher Lloyd has a set of resolutions for his famed garden at Great Dixter, entirely plant-centred. First, he has decided to grow orchids from seeds — not the huge flowered exotics, but homey native species, such as the green-winged orchid, which has a range of colour forms from almost white to deep purple. A kind of negative resolution is to leave the space in the old orchard where a number of mature trees fell, because it created more open, lighter conditions "so good for wild flowers". Another plan

for this year is "to grow ferns from spores: it's not so difficult, it's just that I haven't got down to it yet, but this year I shall".

In her famous garden at Barmsey House in Gloucestershire, Rosemary Verey gives priority to walking about the garden. "Not as obvious as it sounds — I shall try to see it with new eyes," she explains, "trying to discover new combinations and different things to do with existing plants."

"This winter I have been taking the lower branches from some of the conifers in the flowerbeds. The bottoms were looking dull and dead,

and removing up to six feet of branching has opened up possibilities for planting foxgloves, violets and other flowers beneath. I'm also experimenting with the trees in the lawn, making each of them a bed of one yard (1m) square, edged with dwarf box. I'm trying to work out what to plant inside them — bulbs for the spring and some interesting annuals, perhaps."

"Don't ever think you haven't got room for bulbs," she adds. "You have — but it is important to make a plan of where you have planted them to make sure you don't put in clashing things in another year."

WEEKEND TIPS

- Inspect stored apples, potatoes, onions and carrots for signs of decay.
- Prune indoor and outdoor grapevines at once if not already done.
- Pick winter iris (*Iris unguicularis*) to keep blooms coming.
- Keep off lawns which are very wet or frost-covered. They may be cut if necessary, but only when dry and with the mower blade set high.
- Continue to plant bare-rooted trees and shrubs, so long as the weather is reasonably mild and the ground not waterlogged.

WEATHER

Cold comfort

The waves of Arctic air that have swept down across the eastern United States to Florida in recent weeks are a useful reminder of the variability of the weather, and of the importance of a wider perspective on global weather events.

Winter weather in the United States is of particular interest, as it is widely held to be a harbinger of what the British Isles will get within a week or so. In the most direct sense this assumption is nonsense. But there is a more subtle explanation for the possible connection between weather events on each side of the Atlantic. During the winter, the westerly circulation of the upper atmosphere in the middle latitudes of the northern hemisphere can adopt a meandering pattern. Because this circulation steers the surface weather systems, it leads to Arctic air sweeping southwards in some places, while in the intermediate regions this is balanced by warm sub-tropical air moving northwards.

Cold weather in the eastern United States is usually linked with a circulation pattern centred on the Rocky Mountains, with warm air moving up to the West, while cold air sweeps down from Canada. Downstream, the next wave in the meandering pattern can sometimes produce an area of high pressure close to the British Isles which can bring cold, easterly winds.

On longer term trends the American experience is instructive. While there is clear evidence of a global warming trend, in the United States annual temperatures have remained virtually constant for 100 years. Furthermore, during the last 15 years the eastern half of the country has experienced an exceptional number of record-breaking cold spells.

So, to the extent that British winters are linked to those across the Atlantic, the message is clear. The exceptional mildness of the last two winters is no sign that the climate has changed. After all, it is only three years to the day since we started a cold spell that brought the lowest daytime temperatures of the century to southern England.

W.J. Burroughs

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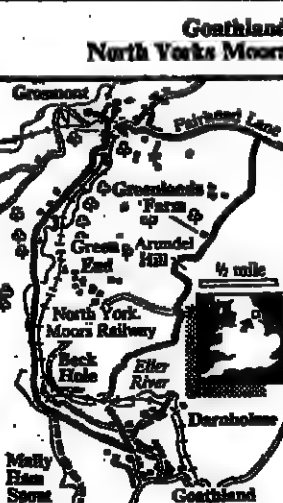
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WEEKEND WALK



North Yorks Moors

What more can a walk offer than to lead you through shady, deciduous woodland, take you beside a dancing beck, guide you to a raging waterfall, give you several close encounters with the North Yorkshire Railway and bring you to lovely moorland?

Park in the station car park at Grosmont. Walk over the level crossing and pause to watch the Vera Lynn engine shunting back and forth, preparing for the run to Goathland. Turn right and follow the signpost for the attractive village on the moors, then the sign for Rail Trail.

Continue beside a workshop

where enthusiasts lovingly care for steam engines. Follow a wide track, newly restored by conservation volunteers. Both are on the trail that follows the route of the dismantled Whitby to Pickering Railway.

Cross the Eller river at Beck Hole on huge stepping stones, part of the masonry of an old bridge. Beyond the hamlet choose either the footpath to the right, leading to Mallyham Spout, a spectacular 70ft waterfall, or continue along the trail, the famous Beck Hole line, to Goathland. Turn left at the edge of the village along the 18th-century causeway stones. After 150 yards turn right on to a

footpath to the Eller. Walk the narrow metal bridge below the North Yorkshire Railway and stride north-east across the moor past Hawthorn Hill Farm. Beyond, walk due north to the moorland road. Away to the right lie the radesomes at Fylingdales.

Cross the road and walk the reinforced track past Arundel Hill to Greenlands Farm. Use the old path by the wall to reach the stream in the valley bottom, before climbing northwards beside the fell wall. At Fair Head Lane turn left and walk downhill to Grosmont.

Mary Walsh

© Last week Roy Woodcock suggested that landowners should get grants to maintain footpaths. Here Julia Watson of Redleaf says the law places the responsibility elsewhere.

All public footpaths are public highways and must be shown on a list of highways for which the highway authority is responsible. In law liability for maintenance may be taken on by a district council only in certain circumstances and by stating each item, not as the result of an agency agreement.

The fact that a path or

bridleway might be marked on a "definitive map" is insufficient evidence alone to support its existence. When these maps were prepared after the war, the law made it necessary to survey paths and to note the date they were alleged to be highways. A full statement had to be made which included the width. If the path was then marked on an official map, the responsibility and liability became that of the highway authority, and the map and valid statement had to be on show.

Most highway authorities do not prepare the necessary statements to provide evidence to support the indication of public footpaths and bridleways on a map. This means that the so-called "definitive maps" which are offered for public inspection have no real significance on their own.

In my experience, both local authorities and keen walkers seem unaware of the law which places liability upon the highway authority and gives an unobstructed right of use to

the public. The landowner has no rights and no liabilities, unless some have been specially reserved for his benefit when the path was made. He no longer owns the surface of the land and therefore cannot become involved. Stiles which are a constituent part of a listed public highway cannot be his responsibility.

Confusion and argument over rights and responsibilities will continue until highway authorities carry out their duties in compliance with the Act of Parliament.

EVENTFUL

Four teams took part in seven events. Points were awarded for first, second, third and fourth, inversely proportional to position, and divided equally between any teams that tied, such that the points for each event always added up to the same total. The positional result in each event was different. There were ties in every event except the last. The rules of the competition stated that if teams finished with equal totals, then the most first places or first equal places secured would decide the overall winner. If there was still no outright winner after that, then the most second places would be taken into account and so on.

ALBION improved on their score in each event. DIGBY scored different points in each event. CLANKERS were outright winners of event 4. BURLING were outright winners of event 5.

As it happened, all four teams finished level on points. Which team was declared the winner?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Mindcorcher: Six tricks. It does not pay declarer to persist with one or two suits only. One opponent has all the aces, does not play them for six tricks, and then plays them all in turn. He continues the suit declarer has run out of and thus squeezes him out of another suit. And again. And again. Declarer cannot know what to discard and may lose the last seven tricks.

Linkword: The anagram spell IMPOSSIBLE. The Linkwords were SPOIL, SLOPE, POEMS, PROSE, PROBE, BORNE, SNORE, RESIN, REIGN, GRIND, GRAND.

Rhogram clue: You might see one at a tea party

Answers next week.

Answers next week.

COLLECTING

Finely drawn values

Drawings and watercolours go on sale in London and Chester. Peter Philp offers a preview

Fewer things could be less alike in spirit or intent than a vigorous figure drawing by a cinquecento Italian and a gentle early 19th-century English landscape, but watercolours and drawings tend to get lumped together for no better reason than that, unlike oil paintings on canvas or panel, they are usually executed on paper. This, together with an insistence on quality and authenticity, is the decisive parameter imposed on exhibits in *The World of Drawings and Watercolours*, an event now in its fifth year to be opened at the Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, on January 24 by John Ward, CBE, RA.

There will be none of those arbitrary "date lines" that are applied at antique fairs; this one claims to cover "the whole spectrum of schools and styles from the 16th century to modern times". The 50 exhibitors will be offering works by everyone from Barocci to James Thornhill, with a special emphasis on Scottish works, and will cover a price range of £100-£40,000. "Good value" is promised in the traditional field of the early English watercolour, to be represented more strongly this year than in the past, with landscapes by David Cox, William Callow, Peter de Wint and John Varley.

What passes for "good value" these days? This is a market in which prices have increased over the last few years to the point where pleasant views by little-known artists sell for hundreds, while a chocolate-box cottage scene by a big name such as Helen Allingham can bring many thousands. Good watercolours were absurdly under-



Putting pen to paper: detail from "Gipsy Encampment" by Joseph Partridge, RA (1747-1821)

priced not so long ago, and perhaps what might now appear to be prodigious purchases may yet prove to be sound investments.

Away from the sophisticated delights of a London fair and into the hurly-burly of a provincial auction room, the pre-sale estimates of watercolours in Sotheby's sale at Chester on January 18 provide an indication of what

the collector might expect to pay in the open market for some minor masters of the 19th or 20th century. In the £400-£600 bracket, there is a restful landscape, *Evening on the Conwy* by Albert Pollitt, signed and dated 1902; a pretty girl in a flower-filled garden by William Frederick Ashburner is estimated at £500-£700; a peregrine falcon by Charles Tunnicliffe,

slightly over 8in square, is expected to bring £2,000-£3,000, and the same estimate is put on a large (25 1/2in x 38 1/2in) view of Moret in France by Oswald Garside. An Italian scene by Charles Rowbotham dated 1883, that the auctioneers think will bring £800-£1,200, is pleasant enough; but not so many years ago to have spent £45 on it would have been the kind of

wild extravagance to be concealed from one's friends.

My own feeling is that Italian and French drawings by minor masters of the 16th and 17th centuries, whether in pencil, chalk or ink, are still a good buy in the £750-£2,000 price range, but this is an area calling for expert advice and a willingness to dismiss from the mind the idea of a highly finished picture. During the Renaissance and early baroque periods, artists made studies — of the human figure especially, but also of animals, battle scenes and architectural subjects — not as marketable products in themselves but as preliminary sketches, often lacking the detail and the sense of composition that we tend to look for in a "picture". That is no reason for not buying one for its own sake, as a fine piece of draughtsmanship.

Both drawings and watercolours are prone to fading and also to "foxing" with small brown spots, caused by a combination of damp and acidic backing materials; these can be removed by expert restorers. In the process of re-framing, acid-free materials should be used, and when hanging the picture, avoid too sunny a position.

• *The World of Drawings and Watercolours*, Park Lane Hotel, Piccadilly, January 24-28, 11am-8pm (7pm last two days), admission £6 including illustrated catalogue. Lectures on January 25 by Joan Mallatier 2.30pm, Brian Sewell 6pm, £12 each. Advance information 01-491 8306; during fair 01-491 6321.

• *Paintings and Watercolours*, Sotheby's, Book Mansion, Watergate, Chester, January 18, 11am, illustrated catalogue £7 (£8 by post), 0244 315531.

vases and dishes, including a very appealing large Famille Verte example, 21.5in in diameter (£250-£300). Christie's, South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 3LD (01-581 7611), Sale Thurs Jan 11, 10.30am-2pm, Evening viewing Mon, 5-7.30pm, Tues and Wed, 9am-6pm.

John Shaw

• For more on Antiques and Collectables, see *The Times* next Wednesday

Antiques guides to divide the cynics from the aesthetes

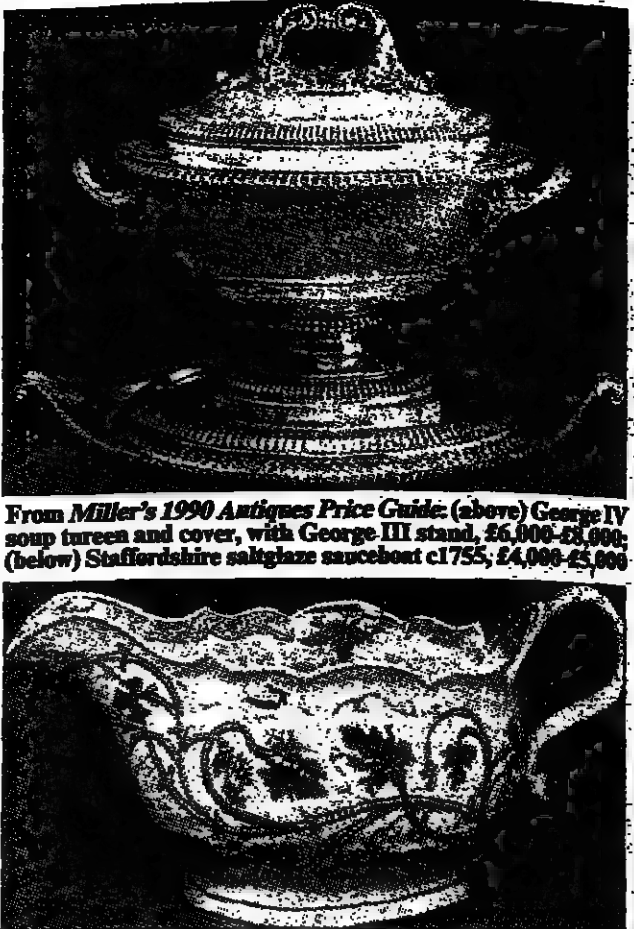
Value beyond price?

The new edition of Miller's annual *Antiques Price Guide* illustrates about 8,000 items, most of them in the traditional fields of furniture, porcelain, glass, clocks, rugs and silver, but many in such categories as "kitchenalia", luggage, instruments both musical and scientific — every item with a short description and an estimated price.

There are, for example, 22 fans ranging from £300 to £2,500, compared with only five, estimated at £95-£180, in the 1980 edition. Lady Windermere's example, which gave rise to the classic definition of a cynic, may not be among them, but some of us, while not indifferent to aesthetic values, still want to know the price of everything, and although the editors emphasize that this is a price guide, not a price list, the temptation to compare estimates in the 1990 edition with those of 1980 is irresistible.

A figure of £340-£370 was suggested in 1980 for a first period Worcester dish, 9in in diameter, painted with flowers; the punter of 1990 is led to hope for a plate of the same period, only half an inch smaller and decorated in much the same way, for £100-£150. It is true that dishes, being rarer, cost more than plates; and that prices for porcelain fluctuate according to fashion, so that some of the classic 18th-century work now commands less interest than does highly decorative 19th-century china. (A Royal Worcester vase, painted by H. Davis in 1911, was assessed at £490-£560 in 1980, while a similar one painted by the same artist in 1907 is put at £3,000-£5,500 in 1990.) Even so, I doubt that it will be possible to buy much good 18th-century Worcester for £100 in the coming year.

Price brackets of £70-£90 and £60-£80 each were suggested 10 years ago for Regency decanters similar to those currently assessed at only £90-£120 and £180-£200. It would have been quite easy to buy a late Georgian cut-



From Miller's 1990 *Antiques Price Guide* (above) George IV soup tureen and cover, with George III stand, £6,000-£8,000; (below) Staffordshire saltglaze sauceboat c1755, £4,000-£5,000

is a record in full colour of their prize pieces in the 1988-89 season, ranging from Titian's *Penitent Magdalen* (£1,650,000) to a German toy — a clockwork battleship of 1904 (£39,600).

Sotheby's *Concise Encyclopedia of Furniture* is illustrated in colour on nearly every page, but with not a price mentioned from beginning (with ancient Egypt) to end (with a survey of design in the 1980s). It is edited by Christopher Payne, a Sotheby's expert well-known to viewers of BBC TV's *Antiques Roadshow*; but of the 14 contributors, there are six, including myself, who have no formal connection with the firm and were paid a straight fee with no royalties on sales; so, in recommending the book as useful, except to cynics, I have no vested interest to declare.

P. P.

• Miller's *Antiques Price Guide*, 1990, Miller's Publications & Hamlyn, 796 pages, £16.95.

• Sotheby's *Art at Auction 1988-89*, Sotheby's Publications, 459 pages, £35.

• Sotheby's *Concise Encyclopedia of Furniture*, Conran Octopus, 308 pages, £25.

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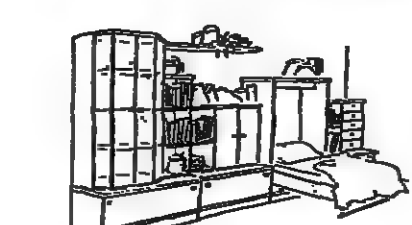
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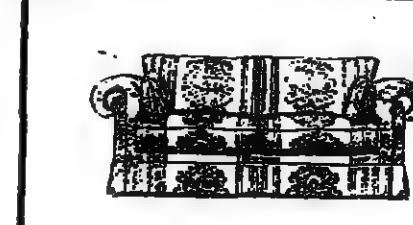
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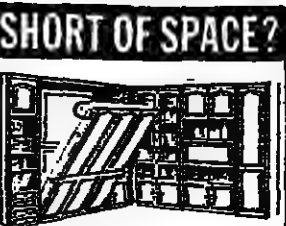
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THE TIMES CONSUMER REPORT

The cool way to choose a fridge

BILL FRANCIS

Nicole Swengley
takes a cold,
calculating look
at fridges:
the vital features
and the costs

With the January sales in full swing, now is a good time to consider buying, or replacing, a fridge. The consumer magazine *Which?* has tested 37 fridges of worktop height and taller, and come up with some firm recommendations.

Its report also highlights areas of good and bad design, giving ideas of what to look for when buying.

If you already have a separate freezer, choose a larger fridge, one without a frozen food section. These are usually easier to keep at the correct temperature, need no defrosting and are cheaper to run.

To cut the risk of food poisoning, keep your fridge at 5°C or colder. All the fridges tested in the *Which?* report could manage this, though it is impossible to know what temperature your fridge is maintaining just by looking at the thermostat control.

The report indicated that the manufacturers ought to build thermometers into their fridges. Until they do, buy a fridge thermometer.

Most fridges with frozen food compartments have a particular problem at cool room temperatures. If you get the fresh food compartment at the right temperature, the frozen food section is likely to be several degrees too warm. This is not a health risk but it does mean that you cannot rely on your two-star compartment to store food at -12°C for a month, which is what it should do.

When checked at a room temperature of 16°C, the fridges tested managed between only -3°C and -8°C. In other words, a one-star performance (one week's storage at -6°C) from a two-star compartment.

The Bauknecht KDC1533, £230, has a three-star compartment, which can store frozen food for three months. All the others tested had two-star compartments. None was suitable for freezing fresh food. The Indesit R1402WG larger fridge, £110, has a no-star compartment, which can be used for making ice-cubes but not for storing food.

All the larger fridges tested defrost automatically. Fridges with frozen food compartments need to be defrosted manually, every few months. All except one offered a satisfactory method of collecting and removing the defrost water: with the Bauknecht KDC1533 the water collects in the bottom of the fridge and it is necessary to swab it out. Fridges consume electricity



Best Buys: Frigidaire R1590 and Zanussi DR50/2, both £140

BUYING GUIDE

Worktop-height larders:

BEST BUY: The Frigidaire R1590, £140, has good temperature control and is cheap to buy and run, despite several drawbacks in terms of convenience. **RECOMMENDED:** The Liebherr KT1910-5, £180; Philips ARG 183/PH, £180; Zanussi DR56/L, £185 (Electrolux RF573 is similar).

Worktop-height with frozen food section:

BEST BUY: The Zanussi DR50/2, £140, offers good performance at a middle-range price with no serious convenience drawbacks.

Tall larders: **GOOD VALUE:** Electrolux RP1016, £240; Hotpoint Iced Diamond 8149W, £250; Philips ARG711/PH, £240. These have few convenience drawbacks. The Profile R111, £220 (Scandinova KS315-47 is similar) is cheap for its size but has convenience drawbacks.

All the worktop-height fridges fitted under a standard height (87cm) kitchen work surface. But bear depth in mind if you have any deep skirtings, pipes or sockets that may get in the way. Remember, too, that some fridges need to have their doors opened beyond 90 degrees to remove the shelves, which may mean extra space is needed.

● The *Which?* report tested fridges for ease of use and ease of cleaning. The AEG Santo 2500KA, £280, and Bauknecht KDC1533, £230, have solid shelves, which some people

USEFUL POINTS TO CONSIDER WHEN BUYING A NEW FRIDGE

may find more convenient than the grid type for storing small items. They also help to prevent liquids dripping from one shelf to another and may, therefore, cut down the risk of cross-contamination — a major cause of food poisoning.

● Four fridges were rated unsatisfactory by the *Which?* convenience assessors. The Romanian NE1142, £100, has many sharp edges and dirt traps; the Russian Snowcap 150DL, £90, has too little shelf storage area, and the drip trays are difficult to remove and replace; the UK-made Tricky

R4008, £125, lacks an interior light, its thermostat marker isn't clear, and only one tall bottle can be stored in the door rack; the Swedish-made Asko Polar KS3501, £370, has an ineffective light in the top compartment, no light in the bottom compartment and a door handle that is uncomfortable to use.

● As far as convenience is concerned, the report noted the following points which are worth considering when buying a new fridge:

- Are there lots of sharp edges?
- Are there any dirt traps?
- Does the fridge have rollers/casters?
- Does it have adjustable feet?
- Is the thermostat marker clear?
- How easy is it to press the defrost control?
- Are the drip trays easy to remove or replace?
- Does it have adjustable shelves?
- Does the main compartment make good use of storage space?

- Are the door racks adjustable?
- Is there a bottle rack which lets tall bottles stand in the main compartment?
- What sort of door storage space is provided?
- Is there an enclosed dairy compartment?
- Are there any fittings to stabilize items in the bottle rack?
- Is there a separate meat dish/thaw tray?
- Are the door hinges reversible?
- Does the fridge come with a plug?

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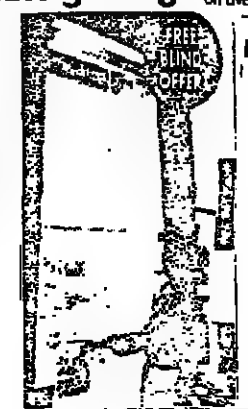
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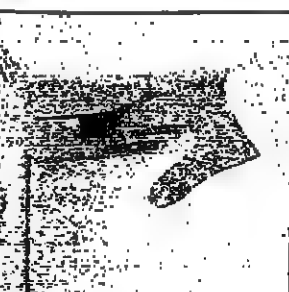
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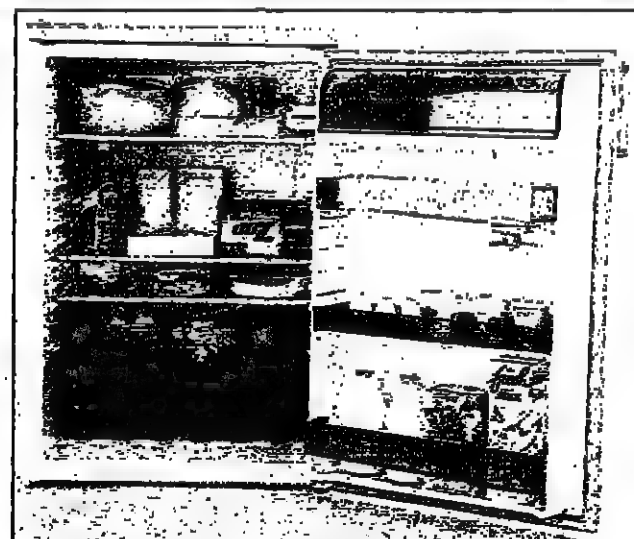
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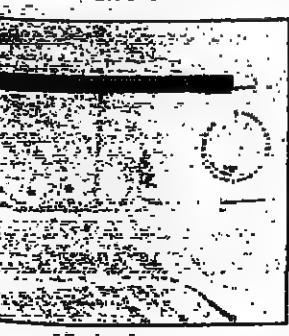
The recessed door handle on the Electra EO5T-8, left, is uncomfortable to use. The more traditional handle on the Zanussi DR50/2 is easier to grip



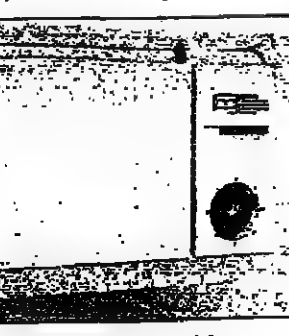
The more traditional handle on the Zanussi DR50/2 is easier to grip



Adjustable shelves and door racks are very useful: you can change the layout to suit the foods you store. This is the Zanussi DR56/L



Thermostat markers should be clear and unambiguous, as on the Hotpoint Iced Diamond 8129W, left. The one on the Electrolux RF573, right, could be better



The one on the Electrolux RF573, right, could be better



A bottle grip in the door rack helps to prevent the bottles from tipping over (Electrolux RF573)



The can dispenser in the Zanussi DR56/L keeps the drink cans tidy and easy to get at

THE WEEK AHEAD



Trials: Martin with Steenburgen

CINEMA

GEOFF BROWN

IN COUNTRY (16): Earnest problem piece about a country girl (Emily Lloyd) and her uncle (Bruce Willis) — a Vietnam veteran. Directed by Norman Jewison. Warner West End (01-439 0791), from Fri.

ROSALIE GOES SHOPPING (15): Broad satire from director Percy Adlon and the ample Marianne Sägebrecht. Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-836 6279), from Fri.

TURNER AND HOOD (PG): Predictable cop-and-dog antics, given some charm by Tom Hanks' as the police investigator. Odson Leicester Square (01-830 6111), from Fri.

Once a boyish member of the *Happy Days* television troupe, Ron Howard is now among Hollywood's most ambitious, fantasy-oriented directors. His new film *Parenthood* comes far closer to real life than *Cocoon*, with its fountain of youth, or *Willow*, awash with trolls. Yet this is reality brightly coloured, packaged like chocolates variously containing heart-warming comedy, pathos, drama, and Steve Martin's unique brand of *stuck*. The theme is the joys and curses of parenthood, seen from the perspective of a large middle-class family. Martin (pictured above with Mary Steenburgen) plays a father over-anxious for his eight-year-old to assert himself; Rick Moranis is the egghead in-law cramming his three-year-old with foreign languages. The problem teenager makes an appearance with Dianne Wiest's daughter. At the top of the family tree sits grandfather Jason Robards, confronting his black sheep son Tom Hulce, aged 27. *Parenthood*, it seems, is never over. Plaza (01-437 1234), from January 12, certificate 15.

BROADCASTING

STEVIE (1978): Glenda Jackson plays the poet Stevie Smith, with Mona Washbourne as her maiden aunt. In a sensitive transcription of Hugh Whitmore's stage play by director Robert Enders. Channel 4, Wed, 9.15-11.10pm.

ORANGES ARE NOT THE ONLY FRUIT: Geraldine McEwan and Kenneth Cranham in Jeanette Winterson's adaptation of her loosely autobiographical novel about a young girl growing up in Lancashire. BBC2, Wed, 9.25-10.20pm.

GERONTIUS: Fictional reconstruction by James Hamilton-Paterson of Sir Edward Elgar's poignant voyage up the Amazon in 1923. With Michael Hordern as Elgar. Radio 4, Wed, 11-11.47am.



Conceptual process: John Virtue

PHOTOGRAPHY

THE ENGLISHNESS OF ENGLAND: Humphrey Spender's glorious and evocative view of England during the late 1930s, specifically the Worktown series on Bolton which he shot for the Mass Observation movement at the time. Daniel Farson's portraits in comparison are altogether more intimate and, as a result, parochial. Birch and Conran, 40 Dean Street, London, W1 (01 434 1246), until Feb 2.

ROBERT FRANK: Photographs from the set of Hugh Hudson's film, *The Road Home* which captures the essence of America during the 1950s and as a result mirrors Frank's well-known photographic essays of the period. Zeid Cheaito Gallery, 8 Cecil Court, London, WC2 (01 836 8566), opens Wed. Until Feb 16.

GALLERIES

DAVID LEE

SHADOW OF THE GUILLOTINE: Britain's response to the French Revolution as seen through art and ephemera. Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester (061 273 4865), from Fri.

OLEG TSELKOV: Paintings by a leader of the Russian avant-garde. Courtauld Brown, London W1 (01-408 0362), from Fri.

MARTIN FULLER: Recent landscapes plus some paintings inspired by city life. Austin Desmond Fine Art, London WC1 (01-242 4443), from Tues.

PAUL NASH'S PLACES: Selection of 85 paintings, drawings and photographs showing the landscape artist's attachment to a handful of motifs which recur in his work. Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter (0382 265858), from today.

The drawings and paintings of John Virtue, such as "Landscape Number 81" (in background above) work in the opposite way to an impressionist picture where the subject becomes more legible as you move away from it. At a distance, Virtue's works resemble controlled, monochrome abstractions, but, as you approach the picture, its complex make-up and detail become apparent. Each painting comprises a grid containing anything up to 200 distinct landscape views. For 10 years Virtue lived in the Pennine village of Green Haworth. The artist now lives in South Tawton, Devon, where his formerly descriptive style has become looser and more atmospheric. Virtue's working process is fashionably conceptual. Walking around the village each day he makes a series of rapid sketches which are then worked up in the studio for inclusion in the finished paintings. Implicit in this approach is the belief that no single view of any place can evoke fully its identity. *Ten New Works*, an exhibition of paintings by John Virtue, opens Friday, at Lisson Gallery, 67 Lisson Street, London NW1 (01-724 2739), Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, free, until Feb 10.



Nostalgic: John Dankworth reunites his acclaimed big band and the Dankworth Seven at Ronnie Scott's

Once upon a time no worthwhile British film seemed complete without a soundtrack by John Dankworth. Still busy at 62, the composer-saxophonist will be in nostalgic mood at Ronnie Scott's Club for the next fortnight when he leads a reunion of his two most celebrated units — his big band and the Dankworth Seven. At its peak between 1950 and 1953, the Seven provided challenging assignments for some of the country's best jazz musicians. Dankworth's first big band made use of increasingly sophisticated

JAZZ

CLIVE DAVIS

charts, some of them too mannered for jazz listeners accustomed to the earliness of American outflows. Apart from his film scores, Dankworth has composed a number of large-scale works which combine jazz and classical techniques. A determination to bridge different forms of music led him to found the cultural and educational foundation, the Wavendon AllMusic Plan. Co-headed by his wife Cleo Laite, it is now celebrating its 20th anniversary. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (01-439 0747), Mon-Sat January 20.

HAL GALPER: A sideman with Stan Getz, Phil Woods and Zoot Sims, the pianist appears with the house trio led by Peter Ind. Bass Ciel, London N1 (01-729 2476), Tues-Thurs.

LAVERNE BUTLER: Sophisticated evergreens from the American singer, entering the final week of her residency. Pizza On The Park, London SW1 (01-235 5550), until Sat.

JANUSZ CARMELLO: An evening of standards dedicated to the memory of fellow-trumpeter Clifford Brown. Pizza Express, London W1 (01-439 8722), tomorrow.

AKEMI KUNIOYOSHI-KUHN: Accompanied tonight by bassist Mario Mattos and drummer Eddie Prevost, the avant-garde pianist prepares to go on tour with Jazz

Services "Piano Triad" next weekend. Jazz Cafe, London N16 (01-359 4836), tomorrow.

CYNTHIA SAYER: Something of a rarity, the American pianist appears with Bruce Turner (Wed), and Keith Nichols (Thurs, Fri). Pizza Express, London W1 (01-439 8722), Thurs; The Stables, Wavendon, Milton Keynes (0908 583928), Fri.

ROCK

DAVID SINCLAIR

TEARS FOR FEARS: Earnest Roland Orzabal and cute Curt Smith, with current blockbuster album *The Seeds of Love*. Point, Dublin (0001 363633), tonight; Kings Hall, Belfast (0232 65222), Mon; Apollo, Manchester (061 273 3775), Wed and Thurs.

SHIRLEY BEE: Back for yet more triumphal arena residencies. Wembley Arena, Middlesex (01-902 1234), Mon, Tues and Wed; London Arena, E14 (01-538 1212), Fri and Sat 13.

HUE AND CRY: Rescheduled tour now that Patrick Kane's voice has recovered. St George's Hall, Bradford (0274 752000), Fri.

With their jaunty rhythms, catchy tunes, economical arrangements and quirky, sentimental lyrics about the misadventures of everyday life, Squeeze came to prominence in 1978 under a mildly revolutionary banner as A&M's first "new wave" signing after the Sex Pistols. Early hits, like "Cool for Cats" and "Up the Junction" took a walk on the seamy side of South London. The group's strongest card has always been the songwriting partnership of Glenn Tilbrook and Chris Difford. The band split up in 1982, however, just as they were on the verge of making a breakthrough in America. Only the pianist Jools Holland prospered, so in 1985 the group reconvened and took up its rightful place as one of English pop's more quaintly charming if delapidated institutions. Their album *Frank*, released last September, was a typically solid affair exciting rather less comment than the sight of Holland despatching his way through *Juke Box Jury*. Newcastle City Hall (091 261 2606), Thurs; NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133), Fri.

THEATRE

THE HUMAN VOICE: Susanah York stars in her own translation of Jean Cocteau's play, a monologue set in a room in Paris; directed and designed by Simone Bernusca of the Theatre du Rond Point. As seen in several places since its 1984 premiere. For one week only. Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage Centre, London NWS (01-722 9301), opens Mon.

THE PELICAN: World premiere of Gregory Motton's translation of a Strindberg "chamber drama" about a family, facing the death of their father and realizing the falsity of their life together. Directed by Janine Wunsche and Mark Brickman. Gate Theatre Club, above Prince Albert Public House, 11 Fernbridge Road, London W11 (01-228 0706), previews Tues, Wed, opens Thurs. Until Feb 17.

BENT: Ian McKellen and Michael Cashman star in a revival of Martin Sherman's powerful drama, first staged at the Royal Court, about the persecution of homosexuals in Nazi Germany. Directed by Sean Mathias. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 2252), opens Fri, then in repertoire.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Revival of Elijah Moshinsky's powerful production of *Die Walküre*, now with Carlos Kleiber conducting a cast led by Plácido Domingo and Katerina Roudakova. First night tonight — (7.30pm), then Tues and Fri. *Der Freischütz* (Götz Friedrich revival) continues its run, Mon and Thurs. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1086).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, strong revival of David Pountney's magical 1950s style production of *Hansel and Gretel* (also Tues and Thurs at 7.30pm). *Faust* is revived on Wed (also Sat Jan 13 at 7.30pm) with Arthur Davies as in the title role and John Tomlinson repeating his gripping Mephistopheles. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

OPERA NORTH: On Thurs at 7.15pm new production of *Don Pasquale* introduces Donizetti's opera to the company repertoire, with Andrew Shore in the title role. Also, revival of Ian Judge's challenging *Tosca* opens on Wed at 7.15pm, now with Janice Cairns in the title role. Grand Theatre, Leeds (0532 455351).



Deadpan pianist: Jools Holland

DOMUS/TOMES: Yet another Haydn series continues with Domus playing the String Quartets Op 64 Nos 1 and 6. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800), Mon, 7.45pm.

MAUM NOTES: In another series, the International Piano Series, Naum Grubert performs Schubert's last Sonata, D 950, and Schumann's Variations on a Theme by Clara Wieck. Queen Elizabeth Hall, Tues, 7.45pm.

OPFIZ OPPORTUNITY: Gerhard Oppitz performs Brahms's solo piano music, starting with the Scherzo Op 4, Sonata Op 5, Rhapsodies Op 79 and Pieces Op 119. Wigmore Hall, 38 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-935 2141), Wed, 7.30pm.

BAKELS BRAHMS, BERLIOZ: The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra is conducted by Kees Bakels in Brahms's Academic Festival Overture, Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with Joseline Bell as soloist. Wexham Hall, Poole Arts Centre, Kingsland Road, Poole (0202 685222), Wed 7.30pm.

KIRKBY CONCERT: As part of the International Lieder Festival Series, Emma Kirkby sings Baroque, Stravinsky, W. Lawes, H. Lawes, and others. Queen Elizabeth Hall, Thurs, 7.45pm.

BURGOS/BUCHHOLZ: The LSO is conducted by Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos in Holst's *The Planets* and Beethoven's Concerto No 1 Op 15. Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-638 6861), Fri, 7.45pm.

CONCERTS

ROYAL BALLET: Only one performance this week on Wednesday when Sylvie Guillem dances *Cinderella* for the first time. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1086).

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: The London season ends today with two performances of *The Two Peasants and Les Sylphides*. Sadler's Wells Theatre, London N1 (01-278 8916).

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: The Nutcracker continues nightly except Sundays until January 20, plus Saturday matinees. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800).

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BRIDGE

From the banks of the Elbe to the beaches of the Black Sea the great Statistist lie has been exposed. So let's start the New Year in a spirit of optimism laced (because we are talking about card players) with mendacity. Maufida may have told such dreadful lies, but she had nothing on a character called Oswald Jacoby.

Jacoby, like Guillaume Deschapelles, was one of the greatest games players in recorded history. Guillaume le Breton invented the Deschapelles Coup in Napoleonic times, whereas Jacoby belongs to our own century. He has the distinction of giving his name to at least two bridge conventions and one very useful rule at backgammon. He also told some whopping lies, and here he is in action.

Sometimes in the early days of contract bridge. Dealer West.

W N E S
Jacoby 40 Mrs J No
74 No No No
Jacoby's jump to seven spades not only reveals a degree of marital trust which largely belongs to a bygone age, but quite clearly conveyed the message that he controlled the first round of the heart suit. South smugly led the ace of clubs, enabling Mrs Jacoby to make the grand slam with no difficulty. Be honest now. What would you have led after such a bidding sequence? This is a neat hand to try on your friends because it lends itself to nice lines of reasoning. It is possible to argue thus: "Jacoby says he isn't worried about the heart suit, so he wants me to lead something else. Therefore what he is really doing is trying to deter a heart lead, so that is precisely what I will lead."

Sometimes the lie comes in the opening bid. Suppose your opponents have freely bid a grand slam and you are on lead, in the unusual position of holding not one but two aces. You think they are bluffing. They are probably void in one of your suits, and if they are void in both then it doesn't matter any-

way. Your diamond suit is A 10 6 5 2 and your club suit is A J 8, so you lead the ace of clubs, obviously, since an opposing club void is less likely than a diamond void. Right? Well then, take a look at the following deal, recorded by Goren:

♠ 5 5
♥ Q J 10 7 6
♦ K 3
♣ 10 9 6 4
W N E S
♠ 7 2
♥ Q J 8 4
♦ A K Q J 10 6 5 2
♣ A 5
W N E S
♠ 7 2
♥ Q J 8 4
♦ A K Q J 10 6 5 2
♣ A 5

West dealt, and after three passes South made the astounding bid of seven spades. West doubled and led the ace of diamonds, defeating the contract by one trick.

South would have made his contract against an expert, which only goes to justify the best rule of all: you are not playing against an empty chair. Sometimes you can fool a good player but not a bad player. You have to judge your opponent, as Jacoby did in the first hand. But try the second hand on your friends too, and if they say "Of course you must always lead the ace of clubs," you can quote Lord Grey of Faldoon at them:

"There is only one theory about bridge in which I have perfect confidence, and this is that the two words least appropriate to any statement about it are the words 'always' and 'never'."

Lord Grey was actually talking about fishing, but I did say this was going to be a column about telling lies.

John Graham

CHESS

Today marks almost the mid-point of the Foreign and Colonial Grandmaster tournament at Hastings, one of the strongest ever held in this country. In the early rounds that ingenious player, Jon Speelman, was responsible for some of the most entertaining chess, whether it was his draw with Michael Adams, the 18-year-old British Champion, his hair-raising loss to the Russian, Sergei Dolmatov, or the following win against Murray Chandler. Students of the game should pay particular attention to Speelman's strategic sacrifice of a rook for Black's knight to undermine the hostile phalanx of pawns in the centre.

White: Jon Speelman; Black: Murray Chandler. Foreign and Colonial Tournament, Hastings, Round 3. English Opening.

Speelman now proceeds to grant Black an invasion square on b3 for his knight, but White was already envisaging a sacrifice of the exchange on that square.

Already inviting Black to win the exchange with 19... Nxd3 20 Qxd2 c3 21 Nxc3 Bxf1 22 Rxf1 when, however, Black's pawn on d5 would be doomed. Chandler decides to keep his options open, but soon Speelman forces a similar variation.

19 Nxd3 20 Qxd2 c3 21 Nxc3 Bxf1 22 Rxf1 23 Nxd3 24 Nxd3 cxd3 25 Qxd3

Before capturing the pawn

the pawn shelter around his king.

If instead, 32... g4 33 Qd3 threatening Qxc4 and Q5.

33 Qxc4 bxc3 34 Qd4+ Kx7

At least Black succeeds in exchanging White's useful bishop.

23 a4 b4 24 Rxf1 Rxf1 25 Nc3 Qd5 26 Nxd5 Rxd5 27 b5

Preparing to permit the trade of his bishop, but the immediate 27... h5 looks more useful.

28 Qd1 Be7

Hoping to play ... Bd8 in reply to 29 Qa7, but Speelman prefers to sever the connection between the columns of Black rooks.

29 Ne4 Qa7 30 Be6 h5

This and Black's next move are too desperate. On no account should Black weaken

In the diagram, Black to play, wins.

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times Chess Competition, The Times, Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Times wallet-sized personal chess computer. The winning move will be printed in The Times next Saturday.

Solution to yesterday's position: Black wins with 1... Rg7+.

Solution to last Saturday's position: White wins with 1 Rg7+.

The three winners of The Times personal chess computers are: Geoffrey Phillips of Huddersfield, Cumbria; Mrs L. Satter of Nuneaton, Warwickshire; and Ian Davidson of New Waltham, South Hampshire.

CROSSWORD

CONCISE NO 2069

Prizes of the Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, January 11. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, January 13.

ACROSS
1 Shelter (6)
4 Terrible fate (4)
7 Misnomer (3)
9 Tax collector (7)
10 Ransack (5)
11 All in the mind (13)
12 Come across (9)
16 Moving before time (7,3,3)
19 Rib (5)
20 Cheese on toast (7)
21 Napoleon's "brave" marshals (4)
22 Slide sideways (4)
23 Rise (6)

DOWN
1 Formula (6)
2 Pausanias (5)
3 Lucid, explicit (7)
5 Commissioned soldier (7)
6 Husbands (11)
7 Duplicity (11)
8 Tedious nuisance (4)
12 Peruvian volcano (5)
13 Summer tops (1,6)
14 Throws out (6)
15 In agreement (6)
17 "Persia" (4)
18 Clark — film star (5)

Reminder: readers wishing to enter the New Year Jumbo crossword competition should post their solutions to arrive not later than Monday, January 15. Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct entries opened. Entries should be sent to The Times New Year Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, January 21.

SOLUTION TO NO 2068
ACROSS: 8 Morocco 9 Uppend 10 Alt 11 Videotape 12 Aaron 14 Austere 17 Tessera 19 Usage 22 Confucius 24 Arc 25 Id Est 26 Awestone
DOWN: 1 Impala 2 Crater 3 Scavenger 4 Good Samaritan 5 Sumo 6 Menace 7 Adhere 13 Ape 15 Squash 16 Rag 17 Tuck 18 Simken 20 Aragon 21 Exceed 23 Unio

Name: _____

Address: _____

SATURDAY JANUARY 6 1990

45

The captain of Rothmans reports on the eventful finish to the third stage of the Round the World Yacht Race

Having a whale of a time in fourth place

Auckland, New Zealand

Yesterday is one I would rather forget. It began with a close shave with a pair of whales, including two near man-overboard incidents, and ended with us blowing out the top of our mainsail and spinnaker, just when we had the measure of Merit during the closing stages of this third stage of the Whitbread race.

But what a fantastic race — and welcome in Auckland. Rothmans finished a disappointing fourth, caught by a 35-knot line squall which blew the head out of our spinnaker, and broke the headboard of the mainsail, just 25 miles from the Auckland line.



Lawrie Smith

So engrossed were we with our close-quarter tussle with Pierre Fehlmann's Swiss maxi, Merit, that the squall which hit at 90 degrees to the prevailing wind caught us both napping. As we rushed to get the spinnaker down, it broke away at the head, simplifying our task. But thinking it was only a temporary gust, I then made a wrong headsail call.

I should have relied on my instincts, but changed my mind from the No. 4 sail to a

medium reacher. As the winds continued to build, not abate, we could see Merit's crew getting into knots with their spinnaker, which refused to come down. It was they who looked to be in trouble, not us, but, after pulling level with them, the strengthening wind proved too much for our sail combination.

My foredeck crew changed the headsail for the smaller No. 4 genoa in double-quick time but, with no reef lines set in the mainsail (another mistake), we were forced to let the sail flop. I was still hoping that the front would quickly pass but it didn't and, after 10 minutes of banging and crack-

ling, the mainsail headboard suddenly broke. It was the end of our challenge. By the time we had pulled the sail down and replaced the car, Merit's crew had recovered their composure and pulled 10 minutes ahead.

After racing almost neck-and-neck for the best part of 3,500 miles, the 81 minutes which divided first from fourth is really quite remarkable. It leaves on a 4½-hour chase to catch Grant Dalton's third-placed Fisher & Paykel, and a little less than a day to make up on Merit over the remaining 15,500 miles.

The two-day 13½-hour advantage held by Peter Blake's Stearman 2 will now

take more than better tactics to beat. Her fractional ketch rig has proved itself superior to the sloop in the predominantly offwind conditions met so far. Only when running before a gale do yachts like Rothmans and Merit hold any advantage. At other times, Blake and his boys have a boat that performs half a knot faster.

Lack, or the lack of it, could still be the deciding factor, however. This was brought home to me yesterday after three extremely close calls during the run south from Cape Reinga.

The first came in the half-light just before dawn, when

one of the crew spotted what he thought was a log. Kim Morton was the first to realise it was a whale close on our beam. Moments later, he spotted another half a boat's length directly ahead, and it was only his quick reflexes which had us avert around the beast. If it had been at night, there is no doubt that we would have crashed straight into it.

The second and third incidents proved even more unnerving when first Russell Pickthall, then Dave Powys, came perilously close to going overboard. In Russell's case, he had merely nipped across the deck to adjust the genoa

car to produce a better lead for the genoa sheet. Moments later, he was swept off his feet by a green wave which broke on deck and washed him over the lifelines. Thankfully, he managed to grasp one of the stanchions long enough for us to pull him back.

Dave, on the other hand, was flicked overboard by one of the runners, and lay out over the side, his feet resting on top of the lifelines, while he held on for dear life to the swinging mast support.

Perhaps we were lucky after all, just losing a spinnaker, the mainsail headboard car — and the race!

Race report, page 46

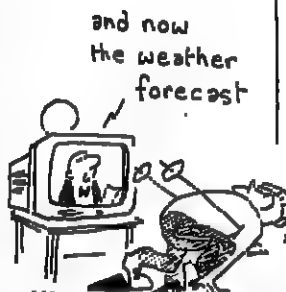


TRAVEL

IN THE LAIR OF THE LEOPARD

In Zambia some former hunting camps now specialize in walking safaris. On foot you seldom get as close to animals as you do in a vehicle, but walking can have its moments. Andrew Powell was standing under a tree when a leopard dropped to the ground just 15 feet away. You could sit in a Land Rover for a decade and never experience anything remotely as thrilling, he writes.

Page 55



WHAT ARE THE SKI CHANCES?

The new ski season has started badly. Falls of snow in the Alps have been insufficient for skiing on the lower slopes of many resorts. What are the chances of imminent improvement, what should you do if you booked two months ago, can you insure against a snowless holiday? Travel Editor Shona Crawford Poole provides some answers.

Page 53

Swindon pair to face FA charges over alleged bet

By John Goodbody

Lou Macari, the former manager of Swindon Town, and Brian Hillier, the chairman of the club, face possible lifetime bans from football after allegedly being involved in a winning bet placed against their own club in an FA Cup tie at Newcastle United in January 1988.

The Football Association yesterday asked the club and both men to answer the charges, which are made under Rule 26a4. This forbids officials, players and managers to bet on any match other than on authorized and registered pools. Newcastle won the game 5-0.

Macari, now manager of West Ham United, who today meet Torquay United in the FA Cup, declined to comment yesterday. He said: "I knew about the problems when it was first announced a few months ago but I am not aware of any of today's developments. I will talk about the game tomorrow but not about anything else." Hillier also refused to comment.

The FA statement read: "Swindon Town Football Club, its chairman Brian Hillier and former manager Lou Macari are charged that they were in breach of Rule 26a4 in relation to an alleged bet placed on the club's FA Cup tie against Newcastle in January 1988. They are requested to respond within 14 days indicating whether they require a personal hearing."

The FA Disciplinary Committee will appoint a three-



Hillier: no comment

man commission from among its 25 members to hear the charges and it will have the power to fine or suspend the individuals.

The FA made clear yesterday that there was no suggestion that Hillier, Macari or anyone at Swindon had been involved in fixing the result of the game.

The FA mounted its own inquiry after evidence produced by *The People* newspaper. A spokesman at the FA said: "We have had an official digging deeply into this matter. It has become public knowledge and we were bound to investigate."

The FA asked the club to comment on the allegations that £6,500 was placed through a Ladbrokes official at Cheltenham racecourse on the day of the match when Newcastle, then in the first

division, were quoted as 13-8 on to win. At the time of the story, Hillier denied that he had placed the bet.

When Macari, who has been a partner in a Swindon bookmakers, was asked in November, 1989 whether he had taken part in a bet against his own team, he replied: "You already know the answer but you have been misled."

This is not the first time that Swindon has been involved in a betting scandal. The club bet on itself to win the third division championship in the 1986/7 season, standing to win £50,000 from a reported £5,000 stake taken from club funds.

Hillier said that the bet was a decision taken by the whole board to take out an insurance policy to cover any bonuses. He said Macari was not involved.

The FA saw no impropriety in the wager because it involved a large number of games over a season, not individual matches.

However, the FA has reacted differently this time. The allegations are the most serious since the scandal involving 10 players, including England internationals Peter Swan and Tony Kay, in the early 1960s.

In January 1965, all 10 were given jail sentences after being found guilty of conspiracy to defraud by fixing matches. Swan, Kay and David Layne, the Sheffield Wednesday forward, were suspended for life, although Swan and Layne were reinstated in 1972.



Management position: Macari puts his West Ham players through their paces yesterday

Doubts on tour are discounted by Bacher

Johannesburg (AFP) — Ali Bacher, the managing director of the South African Cricket Union (SACU), yesterday dismissed doubts raised by Peter Hain, the anti-apartheid campaigner, about the unofficial tour by an England side led by Mike Gatting.

In a South African radio interview, Bacher said that he had spoken to Gatting, who, he claimed, was determined to come and form his own opinion about changes in South Africa. "We do not want to be confrontational, but the tour is a reality," Bacher said.

Hain wrote to Gatting this week warning him that he risked considerable anti-apartheid protest if the three-week tour, which starts later this month, went ahead. But Gatting said that he would respect the advice of the SACU.

Meanwhile the department of home affairs in Pretoria has said that it will question the British embassy about Hain's apparently illegal entry into South Africa in November to gauge reactions to the tour. In 1969 Hain was deprived of the visa exemption usually afforded to British subjects, but he arrived in Cape Town on a British passport on November 24 using the name Peter Western-Hain, the department said.

Four former England Test captains are among the signatories to a letter from Freedom in Sport International in *The Times* today expressing admiration and appreciation of the work being carried out by the SACU in promoting cricket to all races in South Africa.

Letters, page 11

Move may be sought by Cottee

By Ian Ross

Tony Cottee, the England international forward, is expected to seek an end to his contract with Everton next week by submitting an official transfer request.

Cottee, who joined Everton from West Ham United in July 1988 for a then British transfer record fee of £2 million, has been considering his future since being relegated to the substitutes' bench for the game against Luton Town at Goodison Park on New Year's Day.

Colin Harvey, the Everton manager, decides to name an unchanged line-up for today's FA Cup third-round tie against Middlesbrough at Ayresome Park. Cottee's mounting frustration will manifest itself in a demand for a move.

Dreaded opponents at worst time

By Clive White

If there was one match, more than any other, that Alex Ferguson would have wished that his future at Old Trafford as manager did not depend upon, it would have been tomorrow's FA Cup third round tie against Nottingham Forest at the City Ground. In four FA Cup meetings, the most recent only last season when the two clubs met at the quarter-final stage, United have never beaten Forest.

Should United, already eliminated from the Littlewoods Cup, lose again under the gawking eye of the television cameras, the only hope of salvation for the United manager would be a spirited climb up the first division table from fifteenth place. That, on their recent form, seems unlikely.

Ferguson's job — almost literally — could be in the hands of Bryan Robson today. Robson, it is whispered none too softly in the corridors of power at Old Trafford, will be



FA CUP

the next manager of United if and when Ferguson fails. Whatever happens tomorrow, that is not likely to be before next season at the earliest.

United's inspirational captain has not played since leading them to a spirited goalless draw away to Liverpool four games ago because of a groin strain but, with typical courage, he is expected to return for this crucial match.

The irony of the situation will not be lost on Ferguson, who fully appreciates the galvanizing effect that the England captain, who has not trained for more than a week, has upon the United playing staff. "We are going to wait as long as we possibly can before giving him a fitness test. If he tells me he is not feeling pain

in his groin then I hope to play him," Ferguson said.

"It is a very big game for us and Bryan is obviously desperate to play. His presence would make a big difference."

United, who lost Webb, their expensive acquisition from Forest, earlier in the season with a serious Achilles tendon injury, are already without the services of Ince and Wallace, two of their other lavish signings this season, with hamstring injuries, something of a common complaint at Old Trafford over the years.

Injuries have been particularly disruptive to Ferguson's plans this season, as they were last season, while the arrival of several new players has meant that an understanding would inevitably take some time to forge. It is all the more surprising, therefore, that so many people in the game tipped United as championship contenders. If one includes Anderson, who played only a handful of

games following his arrival from Arsenal last season, United would have been attempting to blend six players into the side this season.

Nowhere is the mix, though, more unsatisfactory than in attack where McClair and Hughes have failed to function as a pair and hardly much more beneficially as individuals. McClair, who has scored only four goals compared to the 30 he got in his first season two years ago, is notably out of sorts. His most recent goal was on October 21 and the last of Hughes's eight was on November 18. The only occasion on which they both scored was in the 4-1 victory over Arsenal on the opening day of the season. If ever there was a misleading dawn...

When Ferguson insists that United, who have not won in eight games, must go to Nottingham and attack, one is tempted to ask with what. "There is no way we can do anything else," he said.

St Helens challenge Murphy's allegation

By Keith Macklin

There were conflicting reports yesterday about the attitude of St Helens supporters to the parting of the ways with Alex Murphy, the club's coach. He alleged that as many as 4,000 supporters chanted for the resignation of the Saints' board of directors before, during and after a reserve team game at Knowsley Road on Thursday.

Geoff Sutcliffe, the St Helens secretary, said: "Some groups of fans set up chants in favour of Murphy, but there were nowhere near 4,000. We have had as many communications from supporters who back the decision."

Helens players had refused to sign a petition supporting the board's decision, made by the directors, Frank Barrow and Eric Hughes, members of the coaching staff, also said they had been asked by the board to stay on but that they stood by their resignations in support of Murphy.

Shane Cooper, of New Zealand, will be in charge of the team at Leigh tomorrow. "We have not yet discussed the appointment of a new coach and our next board meeting is on Tuesday. Allegations that we are chasing Australians like Frank Stanton and Mal Meninga are pure rumour," Sutcliffe said.



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McCrae starts health drive

One of the smallest health boards in Scotland is to back a promising young rally driver in an unusual sponsorship arrangement. Dumfries and Galloway Health Board officials are gearing up for the venture which will be the first time a health board has ventured into the world of rally driving.

Colin McCrae, the son of Jimmy McCrae, who won the Shell Oils British Open championship five times, will travel to Dumfries next week for the launch of the promotion.

The launch, at which both Colin and Jimmy McCrae and Colin's team manager, Peter Cattanach, will attend, is to be

held at the Crichton Royal Hospital which is celebrating its golden jubilee this year.

The car will be decorated with the board's name and the health messages which they hope will get across to the thousands of people who will attend the rally events and to those who remain at home but watch them on television.

Les Callaghan, the spokesman for the board, said yesterday: "This will certainly put our board in the fast lane during the coming season. Some people think that small boards like ours don't do enough to promote health care."

"Now we want to put this right and show them that we

are in the lead. We will be featuring such messages as anti-smoking, keeping fit and the awareness of AIDS."

McCrae will have his Ford Sierra Cosworth at the launch and will demonstrate his skills to members of the board including the chairman, James McIntyre, and to those members of the public who attend.

He will compete in the Shell Oils British Open rally events which start next month. Dick Playfair, the spokesman for Lombard, said: "This is a very interesting move by the health board. It would seem to be a good way of getting a message across to the public."

Terry Mancini, the Latona caretaker manager, will Monday be charged by the city with bringing the game into dispute. Mancini, who stepped up as caretaker from March on Thursday following the departure of Ray Harford, is lined for a fine after being charged with the dog-out during Tuesday's Zenith Data Systems vs. defeat at Crystal Palace in November.

... Mick Mills, who became Colchester United's new manager this week, yesterday engaged Jimmy Chung as coach. Chung held a similar position with Millers at Stoke City.

Scarborough, of the fourth division, have unveiled plans for a multi-million pound stadium on the outskirts of the town. The club chairman, Geoffrey Richmond, said the club would seek planning permission for a 24-acre site of farmland near the Eastfield industrial

able £200,000 transfer to action Park. Hazard has been weekly contracts with Chelsea this season after refusing a w deal.

Paul Gascoigne, the Tottenham Hotspur midfielder, would be back in action much earlier than expected after suffering a suspected broken arm against Coventry City on New Year's Day. Terry Venables, the Tottenham manager, said: "The injury is not a broken arm as such, it's just a crack."

New Year's Day said: "One voice has remained unheard, that of the genuine fans who follow their club week in, week out, who put up with appalling treatment from the clubs and so, like the vast majority of the population, totally disown the total hooligan element who ruin their club's name."

Before watching the programme, Burr said: "I do not expect one hour of eulogy, if it is sensible and balanced I can live with it."

Whitley Bay v Rochdale
Whitley Bay choose between
Heron, who kept goal in earlier
round, and Harrison, their regular
goalkeeper recently absent with
a broken arm. Johnson returns to
the midfield but Todd is
substituted.

Vowels v Shifted Wed
 enmission (m) is doubtful for
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Port Vale v Derby
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The FA said that three or four Arsenal players were involved but would not name them. Arsenal had earlier fined some players for their part in the protest. The FA will wait for Arsenal's reply before deciding if further action is needed.

Arsenal were fined £20,000 for bringing the game into disrepute following incidents at the close of their home game on November 4 against Norwich City, who were fined £50,000.

McNeill, of Shrewsbury town, has become the third managerial casualty of 1990 and the first to leave a club this season. McNeill, the club's first manager, was the former Wigan Athletic manager and Chelsea No. 2, was dismissed yesterday after two years at the club.

Last season Shrewsbury were relegated to the third division and have continued to struggle this term. They have put Asa Carter in charge as caretaker manager, club chairman, Alan Woodhouse, said McNeill said: "to go because of the continuing indiscipline of players at Gay Meadow."

Terry Mancini, the Ladies team caretaker manager, will on Monday be charged by the club with bringing the game to the streets. Mancini, who stepped up as caretaker from coach on Thursday following the departure of Ray Harford, is on line for a fine after being ordered from the dug-out during the town's Zenith Data Systems defeat at Crystal Palace in the FA Cup.

Life and spent off for overseas.

at the Suffolk referee, Kelvin Morrison. The Bournemouth manager, Harry Redknapp, will appear at the same time on a similar charge, following comments made after the game at Swindon Town in December.

The Norwich City goalkeeper, Bryan Gunn, charged for his comments in the wake of the fracas at Arsenal, has not started for a personal reason and will be dealt with in his absence.

Blackburn are ready to part with their utility player, Julian Broddie, who seems certain to join Plymouth Argyle for around £70,000.

£6 Mick Mills, who became Colchester United's new manager this week, yesterday said Sammy George, who is in a similar position with the club at Stoke City.

£7 Scarborough, of the fourth division, have unveiled plans for a multi-million pound stadium on the outskirts of the town. The club chairman, John Richmond, said the club were planning permission for a 24-acre site of farmland near the Bestfield industrial

estate with a view to begin construction by April.

£8 Halifax Town have fined their captain, John Bramhall, for making rude gestures to his own supporters. Bramhall reacted angrily to chants from Halifax supporters who were calling for the manager, Billy Arns, to be dismissed after the team's 1-4 defeat at Burnley on Saturday.

£9 Mike Hazard, the transient, free-kick specialist, who failed to agree personal terms with Newcastle United last week, had talks with the Portsmouth chairman, Jim Gregory, yesterday. It is possible £200,000 transfer to Fratton Park. Hazard has been on weekly contracts with Chelsea this season after refusing a new deal.

£10 Paul Gascoigne, the Tottenham Hotspur midfielder player, could be back in action much faster than he is suffering from a suspected broken arm against Coventry City on New Year's Day. Terry Venables, the Tottenham manager, said: "The injury is not a broken arm or such, it's just a crack."

The Director-General of the BBC has something to answer for and it is a great pity that we cannot withhold our licence fees in protest. The programme was just over well done.

Last night's programme placed Millwall in the context of the south-east London community, looking at its history and the social and demographic changes have shaped the area and the club, from the Sale of Dogs to New Cross, through the relationship between club officials and supporters and the image of the crowd as seen by the media.

Urging supporters to watch it, the Mailwell programme-writer Peter Wynne Day said: "One word has remained unheard, that of the genuine fans who follow their club week in, week out, who put up with appalling treatment from the clubs and who, like the vast majority of the population, totally disown the small hoodlump element who ruin their club's name."

Before watching the programme, Burr said: "I do not expect one hour of rugby, if it is sensible and balanced I can live with it."

permission to play Linton, on the
other side of Park, and
Middlefield, Bennett and Hardym
have less fitness tests for the
visitors: Ord and Lynch stand
by.

Torquay v West Ham
 injury deprives Torquay of
Airey, Loram, Caldwell and Joyce,
but Uzzell returns. West Ham are
expected to recall Paine in goal as
Crane Palace do not want
Suckling to become cup-tied.

Watford v Wigan
 Watford are unaltered. Wigan
are injury free and include Adkins
and Ward in their squad.

West Brom v Wimbledon
 With Taibot, the player-
manager, and Bradley still absent
through injury West Brom are
unaltered. Wimbledon, too, are
unchanged, with Cork and
Sarnhez the substitutes.

Wolves v Sheff Wed
 Demission (a) is doubtful for
Wolves. McLoughlin is poised to
deputize. Turner replaces
Pressmen (fame) in goal for
Wednesday.

Exeter v Norwich
 Exeter are without Goddard and
Elkins (both cup-tied) and Dryden
(injured). Batty and Fawcett
return. Norwich are unchanged.

Tottenham v Shamrock
 Theroavet is fit but Mimms
retains his place in the Tottenham
goal. Van den Heuvel (thigh) is
doubtful. The Shamrock (Ireland
arm) absent. Thomas and
Hughton could return.
Southampton choose between
Ruddock, a former Spur, and
Moore in central defence.
Shearer could start in attack.

Tomorrow
Charlton v Bradford
 Leaburn (knee) and Reid
(stomach) are doubtful for Char-
lton. Jones could return to the attack.
Bradford returning from loan are
City. Davies (calf) is doubtful to
Bradford.

Nott'm Forest v Man
 Robson (groin) is hoping to
return for United, who are without
Robson and Wallace (both
hamstring). Robins continues in
attack.

Preston v Derby
 Jeffers (toe) and Miller
(hamstring) have late fitness tests
for Vale.

at the top that one defeat can mean two or three places lost.

Particularly the leaders, travel to Bangor and Coleman's head for Newry, both difficult matches for the away sides.

FA seeking Arsenal's view

Although Jim Ashworth, the referee of Arsenal's match at Villa Park last weekend, has commended Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain, in trying to restrain players who protested to match officials at the end of the game about Villa's second goal in a 2-1 win, the Football Association yesterday asked Arsenal for observations on his report (Dennis Signy writes).

The FA said that three or four Arsenal players were involved but would not name them. Arsenal had earlier fined some players for their part in the protest. The FA will wait for Arsenal's reply before deciding if further action is needed.

Arsenal were fined £20,000 for bringing the game into disrepute following incidents at the close of their home game on November 4 against Norwich City, who were fined £50,000.

1. *What is the purpose of the study?*

Extracts from *The Story of Skiing*.
Robert Guy and Ranulf Rayner
David and Charles, £35).

The Russians held a press conference to discuss the new form of Soviet foreign policy, and said that the new policy was based on the principle of peaceful co-existence. The new policy was based on the principle of peaceful co-existence, and the new policy was based on the principle of peaceful co-existence.

TRAVEL

As Europe's top ski resorts wait for snow, Shona Crawford Poole suggests how you can avoid a ruined winter holiday

Everyone said it could not happen again, but it has. For the fourth year running, poor snowfall in the Alps has given the ski season a disappointing start. For many early-season skiers, who paid the full price of their holidays back in October or November, it has already been a disaster.

Locked into the deal, some made the best of it and skied in unpleasant conditions, or suffered the inconvenience of daily bussing to better pistes on the basis that they could not afford the cost of cancellation — the full price of the holiday. Others cancelled, probably surprisingly few. Tour operators are coy about numbers, preferring to remark on the resilience and optimism of the average British skier who "is always sure it is going to snow the day he gets there". It did, of course, for those who woke up on Christmas Eve and opened their curtains on a foot of more.

It is too soon yet to write off the season as a disaster, although it could turn out to be. But with high-season crowds poised to descend on the slopes in early February, a huge dump of snow will have to arrive very soon if the lower slopes of most resorts are going to be skiable for the remainder of the winter. Without that lower level snow cover, few skiers will classify conditions as good.

For expert skiers who can cope with all kinds of snow and ice on and off the piste, difficult conditions can provide challenges which go a long way to making up for missing the euphoria of howling down a mountain in perfect powder. The bold and inexperienced who are determined to have a good time will have fun wherever they are. But for the less adventurous, with a shaky grasp of technique, who make up a small proportion of the skiing population, bad conditions are miserable. Not only do these skiers not have fun, they don't even have the satisfaction of making good progress.

Global warming is the hot topic of the moment. Are we experiencing permanent climatic change, which will eventually wipe out Alpine skiing altogether, or is the late snow in consecutive years one of those striking facts which turn out to be of no statistical significance? Scientists at the Meteorological Office said this week that it was impossible to decide whether the warming was caused by man-made pollution, or was part of a natural cycle. This, of course, is an academic question for those trying to decide whether or where to ski this year. But first, the weather prospects.

SNOWCAST

High pressure over Europe has meant that there has been no substantial snowfall anywhere in the Alps since Christmas Eve (*W.J. Burroughs writes*). The good news



Bare facts: the sorry scene on Thursday in top Swiss resort Verbier, as skiers pick their way to the lifts to get to the best available glacier skiing

Alps uncovered

has been that while the lowlands have been immersed in low cloud and freezing fog, the ski slopes have been cold and sunny. So high resorts have been able to eke out the snow, while those with plenty of snow cannons (for example St Anton, Val d'Isère, Val Thorens and Zermatt) have been able to keep some lower runs open. Nevertheless, on all but the highest slopes the runs are desperately icy, worn and rocky.

Now the weather is on the change, with high pressure receding eastwards as a milder, more unsettled westerly airstream covers Europe. But this does not mean that the situation will improve rapidly. The immediate prospect is of only limited falls of snow, and there is no sign yet of the major storm that is so desperately needed. Moreover, the rising freezing level will stop snow-making on the lower slopes.

Without plenty of new snow in the next two or three weeks it will not be possible to build the base that is essential to absorb the punishment of high season; the only good skiing this year will be immediately after any snowfall. The best way to find these con-

ditions will be to leave any holiday plans to the last possible minute, and only go if a good fall is in prospect.

FARE DEAL

A majority of tour operators require full and final payment eight weeks before departure. None offers no-penalty cancellation for reasons of poor snow, which is no doubt why so many British skiers believe it will be all right on the night. Snow guarantees, of which more later, have proliferated in recent years as tour operators have sought to overcome our reluctance to book early.

The time has come to question whether booking conditions which work satisfactorily for summer sun and sand holidays are appropriate to winter sports breaks. John Boyle, chairman of the Tour Operators' Council of the Association of British Travel Agents, concedes: "The present situation is like selling sailing holidays with no water. Four years of poor snow will cause us to rethink how we sell the product. Christmas and New Year are traditionally high-season and

priced as such. They may become fairly inexpensive because of the uncertainty of snow conditions, and March could become the high-priced part of the season."

But reducing early-season prices will not change booking conditions. Perhaps the opening of the Channel Tunnel in 1993 will tempt us to bypass tour operators, as most continental skiers do. They wait until it snows, then hop into their cars and descend on the resorts mob-handed to look for bed and board.

SNOW GUARANTEES

Snow guarantees come in many forms. A number of excellent operators offer no form of snow guarantee at all. My advice is to compare the various types of snow guarantees offered. Read the small print and ask questions. Is compensation paid in a resort only after the holiday is over? Will the company arrange to transfer lift passes, or will you have to pay twice over? Will it organize transport to better snow conditions only

if there is no skiing at all in your resort?

A number of chalet party specialists, including John Morgan, Mark Warner, Supertour, and Ski Whizz, do not offer snow guarantees. However, they have numerous chalets in high resorts and, outside high season, will move holidaymakers to where they have the best snow. But beware of high season, when most chalets will be fully booked.

Some snow guarantees are a promise to transport clients daily from resorts with no snow to resorts which have skiing. Crystal Holidays' marketing director, Andy Perrin, says: "We ensure our clients get to ski. That can involve a certain amount of inconvenience — say an hour's journey by bus at either end of the skiing day — but most people are happy as long as they get their skiing. We don't give cash handouts. People don't want £20 a day; they want to ski."

Thomson, the biggest ski operator, pays £30 a day in resort if no skiing is possible there, and if the company has not laid on free transport to another resort where skiing is available. That could involve a journey of up to two

TRAVEL NEWS

Word in their ear

Regulations to ensure the impartiality of the advice travel agents give their customers is proposed by the market analyst, Euromonitor, in a report entitled *UK Travel and Tourism 1990*. It says a travel trade equivalent of the Financial Services Act, requiring agents to disclose their ties, would benefit customers.

Despite the cut-back in holiday packages being offered this year by tour operators, Euromonitor says the sheer number of holiday packages available makes the provision of a comprehensive advice service difficult.

Eastward Ho!

The curiosity of West Europeans about how the other half lives is producing travel opportunities no one could have dreamed of even six months ago. This week a tour of The Great Houses of the Polish Nobility has been added by Prospect Art Tours (01-742 2323) to its already extensive choice of cultural holidays, which also features East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and the Soviet Union. The one-week tour, departing on August 20, costs £815.

Short-break specialist Travelscene (01-427 4445) has put on more holidays in Berlin, Prague and Budapest. Three nights in Berlin, with flights from Heathrow, cost from £215. Similar deals to Budapest cost from £239, and to Prague from £259. A casino weekend in the new Warsaw Marriott Hotel, including two nights' accommodation with breakfast, two dinners, and free entry to the casino with US\$10 worth of free tokens, costs US\$150, or less than £100 per person. The two-night breaks, exclusive of flights to Poland, are available until the end of the year. Information: Marriott International Reservations Centre (01-439 0281).

Free to choose

Holidaymakers should be able to choose their own travel insurance to suit their particular circumstances without incurring extra charges, says Holiday Which? The Consumers' Association travel magazine says tour operators' policies can be more expensive than similar cover bought separately from a travel agent.

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Feeling the heat, not the pressure

Although tourism has discovered Turkey, there are still some unspoilt villages, declares Michael Hamlyn

Thank heavens for the silvery sanctuary of Gümrüklük... Those of us who thought we might get to Turkey before the other tourists arrived are too late, and the Aegean landscape is beginning to be changed.

The organic brown and olive coastal hills are being cut by row after row of new housing developments as metal on flesh. The sound of disco brays from seaside cafes, and coachloads of air-conditioned travellers ply between 3,000-year-old cities. Atkinson, with the nicest beach on the area, came top of the *Which?* league for nastiness in the whole of the Mediterranean. The weekly markets at the handsome city of Bodrum are beginning to be overloaded with fake Lacoste shirts whose alligators fall off at the first wearing.



Sanctuary by the sea: Gümrüklük, where the small harbour is protected by surrounding hills

And yet there are still places like Gümrüklük. A tranquil bay with a tiny harbour almost entirely protected by a tall hill and a small island. The sea is a mixture of indigo and turquoise. A row of whitewashed cottages lines the seashore. Not much beach, and what there is has grey sand; purple bougainvillea, pink elder, red hibiscus soften the edges. The waterside in the centre of the bay is decked with tables from a handful of restaurants — the nearest village has got to tourist exploitation. The food tends to be stereotyped, but deliciously so.

Each offers a menu of *meze* (Turkish hors-d'oeuvres) — fried aubergine with garlic and yoghurt, white beans, stuffed peppers. Main courses are *kofte* (meat balls) or *sis kebab* (skewered lamb) or fresh fish, fried or grilled. A three-course meal with wine will cost marginally under £5 per head.

An English flower child of the Sixties, abandoned here by the ebbing floral tide and by an Italian husband, offers spaghetti and veal and runs the nearest village has to a hotel. There are no discos. Gümrüklük owes its unspoiled charm to two happy chances. It stands upon the site of the ancient city of Mindos. As a result development has been severely restricted. Mindos itself has not been excavated, so little is known about it, but walks on the cliffs are enlivened by



clumps of Hellenic masonry jutting through the earth. Fallen pillars protrude from banks. Earthenware tiles, potsherds of ancient amphorae, are scattered. The cattle graze over mounds topped with byzantine mosaics.

Perhaps the most important conservation factor is the presence on the seafloor of the summer villa of an important military figure. The country was under military rule from 1980 to 1983 and senior military men still carry influence. This man is known locally as the pasha. When he is in residence a pair of armed guards are seen, usually conscripts from religiously conservative eastern Turkey, whose eyes are often plainly strained by the topless sights on the strand.

But he is to be thanked for the absence of discos. He was responsible for the restricted opening hours of a cafe where lager louts were wont to assemble. He causes a line of buoys to be strung across the

bay so the fleets of sailing holidaymakers may not crowd his end of the harbour.

A holiday in Gümrüklük is an unpressured affair. The morning opens with bread fresh from the village shop consumed on the terrace with views of the hills around.

A saunter to the beach. In our case this meant opening the front door for Villa Demet, owned by an architect and operated by Beach Villas of Cambridge, was right on the front. Perhaps a wander to the island in the centre of the bay, reached by a partly submerged causeway. Lunch is a kebab sandwich, or a dish of white cheese and olives. Sunbathing takes place on the terrace where the sun's heat is tempered by cooling sea breezes.

During dinner we watch the evening star and the waxing moon turn the bay to silver. At night, the loudest sounds are a lovesick donkey braying or a dog barking, until the muezzin from the mosque awakens the faithful with his early-morning call to prayer.

On a busy day there is a sea trip on a caique of ancient bulky design, for the traditional boat carried cargoes of figs. We stop at an island and climb up to a ruined lighthouse, dive from the side of the craft into another secluded bay, hover above drowned Grecian villas and picnic on grilled chicken and luminous water-melon.

On another day we visit the wonders of ancient Ephesus,

to sit on the seats where the Ephesians heard St Paul express the sentiments he later set down in his epistle. We admire the statues of the many-breasted Artemis and wonder at a place where first the ancient mother goddess Cybele was venerated, and then the chaste huntress Artemis (Diana to the Romans). Even today it is a place of pilgrimage where the Virgin Mary is reputed to have spent the last days of her life.

There are many ancient cities in this region: the hillside fastness of Priene; the great seaport of Miletus long abandoned by the receding sea; the oracle of Didyma, with 70ft walls still standing; the temple of Zeus in Euromos, towering silent in a glade and the cave temples of pre-Hellenic Canaans.

Even the busy port of Bodrum is home also to the remains of the tomb of King Mausolus, the second of the seven wonders of the ancient world in this quarter (the other is the temple of Artemis at Ephesus).

TRAVEL NOTES

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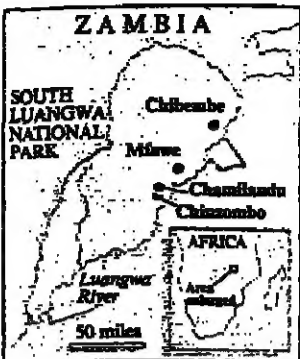
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TRAVEL

In the happy hunting grounds

MARY GRANT

The only killing Andrew Powell met on safari in Zambia came from his feet



If we get charged by a lion," Simon (my trail guide) remarked as we were setting out, "whatever you do, don't run: it only encourages them. If you just stand still they always pull up about 15 yards away."

"Always? How often does this happen?"

"Oh, not that often... but you could be lucky. I tell you, it's one of the great experiences of life."

Back at camp that evening, having avoided any close encounters, we sat drinking cold beer, listening to the hippos quarrelling in the river, and watching the distant hills briefly flame flamingo pink. It had been a long, hot day; the temperature at lunchtime had touched 44°C.

"On a good walking safari," Simon observed between regular swigs at a bottle of Mosi, Zambia's alcoholic staple, "you don't just slog through the bush. It's finding the animals' tracks and following them up that generates the adrenalin."

Chamilandu is a new addition to the handful of small safari camps in Zambia's Luangwa Valley. It is remote and fairly basic: thatched huts, long-drop loos, no electricity. It aims to provide an authentic experience of the African bush before the advent of mass tourism.

Originally, all safaris were hunting safaris. A camp was set up in the middle of nowhere and every day the client went out on foot with the professional hunter in pursuit of his chosen trophy. Big-game hunting is still big business all over southern Africa, and every year thousands of Americans and Germans jet in to secure a leopard's head for their living-room wall.

Certainly the word "safari" these days lends an entirely spurious dignity to the standard East African motorized outing. Herds of minibuses roam the plains descending on one group of unfortunate animals after another. If you see a tight cluster of vehicles, an impromptu car park, then that's where the lions are. They are unlikely to be cheetahs any more as, being highly-strung creatures, most of those have already fled, or died. Fortunately, this type of tourism has yet to come to Zambia (which is not to say that it won't, given the woeful state of the economy).

Can't walking safaris provide the same experience of wild Africa as the hunting variety, without the deplorable necessity of killing



Good spot: "I concealed a yawn by glancing up into the branches directly overhead. I stared at the leopard and the leopard stared back at me. 'Robin,' I said in what I like to think was a normal voice, 'in the tree... above us'."

things? After a moment's thought, my host at Chamilandu gave his considered opinion: "I think they can be. I'd like to make this place as possible - without the guns."

We sat in the darkness listening to the cacophony of the African night: a ragged ensemble of rustles and whistles, squeaks and groans, grunts and howls. Eventually, having been up since 4.30am, I stumbled off to bed. "Oh, by the way," a cheerful voice called after me, "I forgot to tell you we've got a hyena round here with a taste for soap. If you leave any outside he'll be sure to eat it. But if you take it in with you, fasten the door properly. He hates being thwarted. Good night."

Walking safaris, it must be said, have their detractors: "Boring. All you see are antelopes," backsides half a mile away" is the most commonly heard complaint. There is undoubtedly an element of truth in this. On foot you seldom get as close to the animals as you do in a vehicle, and photography is a complete waste of time. (Cameras should be abandoned in favour of a pair of light, clear binoculars with magnification of at least 9x.) However, this is by no means the whole story.

Of all the people leading walking safaris in the Luangwa, the man with the most

established reputation is probably Robin Pope. At his camp, Tena Tena, the day begins at around 5am. By 5.30 you must be on the move, as the sun is already up and many of the animals are beginning to think about calling it a night. For the first hour or so I stumbled along trying vainly to share Pope's evident enthusiasm for a rapidly retreating herd of impala. (Impala in the Luangwa are about as rare as pigeons in Trafalgar Square.) There are times when the African bush seems tediously safe, and even the thought of treading on a puff adder barely serves to quicken the pulse.

In the first couple of hours we saw more impala, puku (another extremely common species of almost identical antelope), waterbuck, warthog, baboon, and a bewildering kaleidoscope of birds.

It was the sudden and spectacular appearance of a bright orange paradise flycatcher that caused us to stop under a large spreading tree. After a few minutes' ornithology, still feeling the effects of our early start, I concealed a yawn by glancing up into the branches directly overhead. I stared at the leopard and the leopard stared back at me.

"Robin," I said in what I like to think was a normal voice, "up in the tree... above us." At this point there was the sound of twigs snapping, a streak of gold, and a heavy thud. The leopard stood glaring at us about 15 feet away. Then, flicking its tail high in the air, it vanished into the bushes.

Silly of me," Pope murmured in self-deprecation. "One shouldn't really stand under trees without looking into them first. Leopards can be a bit of a problem if they feel surrounded. I know that one. Big male. Beautiful animal." The whole encounter had lasted maybe 10 seconds, but you could sit in a Land-Rover for a decade and still hope in vain for an experience remotely as thrilling.

John Coppinger, the manager of Chibemba Lodge, two hours' dusty drive north of Tena Tena, is a man of pronounced views: "Hunting safaris? What's exciting about sitting in a hide waiting to shoot a leopard 20 yards away with a high-powered rifle and telescopic sights? People just do it out of viciousness." Chibemba has three small satellite bush camps, and people spend four days completing a circuit on foot. Next year, there are plans to take people up to the North Luangwa National Park on even more extended trips. Robin Pope has similar ideas. Such trips - walking by day, camping by night, following up tracks, stalking animals through the bush - may not be everyone's idea of a restful holiday, but there's little doubt that they provide an experience of wild Africa difficult to surpass.

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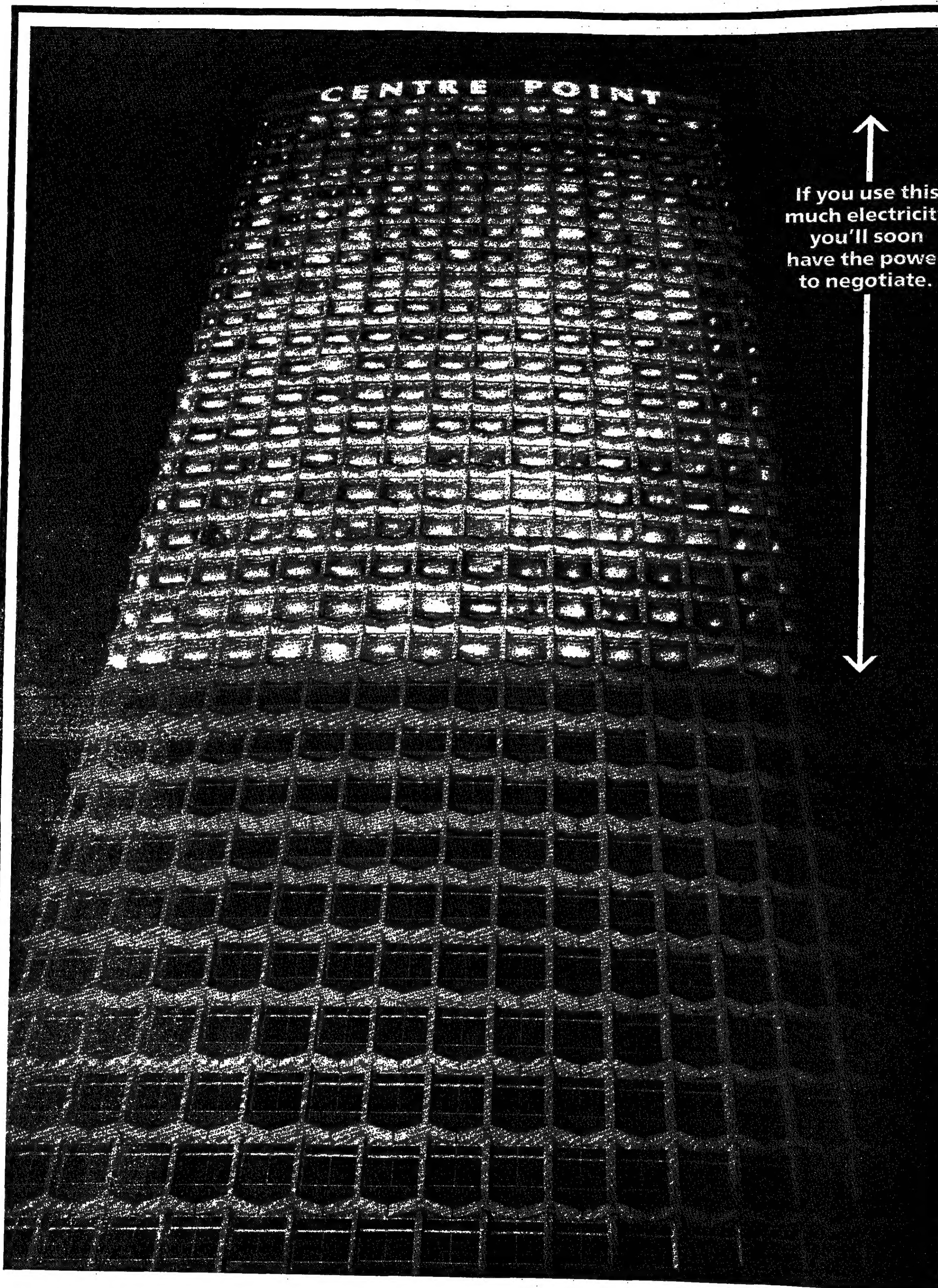
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Halt, zebra crossing: morning in the Luangwa National Park

TRAVEL NOTES

- Although Zambia has no fewer than 19 national parks, getting off the beaten track can be quite difficult as many have no roads, air strips or safari camps. Despite being internationally famous, the huge South Luangwa National Park (8,000 sq km) is still relatively empty. The only part which already feels crowded is that nearest to the airport at Mfuwe (shortly to be enlarged to take wide-bodied jets), where there are plans to build a 150-bed hotel.
- The best lodges in this area are Chinzombo and Kapani. Chamilandu, the sister camp of Chinzombo, is in uncorrupted wilderness towards the south of the park. Accommodation is fairly spartan, but the location is wonderful. Robin Pope's Tena Tena is altogether beyond superlatives, and must be one of the best safari camps in the whole of Africa. It is both remote and extremely civilized. Chibemba is a well-regarded 40-bed lodge (with a swimming pool) which also has simple bush camps for walking safaris, situated towards the north of the park.
- Climate: Walking safaris are only practical in Zambia's dry season: May to October. In the wet season, dirt roads become impassable and the grass grows so tall that you cannot see the animals. The best months are July (climate) and October (game viewing). October, however, is the hottest month.
- Health: Malaria cases currently fill half the beds in Zambia's hospitals. Prophylactics absolutely essential.
- Tour operators: Africa Bound, 93 Chiswick High Road, London W4 2EF (01-994 9560) is a subsidiary of Zambia Airways and specializes in holidays to Zambia. It has organized tours and will also arrange private itineraries at the camps and lodges mentioned here.



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